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**Return of the witches**




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**WEEKEND**




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Lad of Lads

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**THE TIMES** 50P

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**Labour U-turn lets schools opt out**

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

LABOUR is planning to complete the process of allowing schools to opt out of local authority control that it fought against bitterly when in opposition.

The transformation in the running of state schools was announced by ministers yesterday in a move seen as completing the Conservative goal of ending town hall control of education.

Every head teacher will be handed the financial freedom previously enjoyed by the 1,100 schools

that opted for the Tories' flagship policy of grant-maintained status. From next April, all 24,000 state schools will have the right to spend their entire budgets as they see fit, Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, said yesterday.

The decision removes local authority control over services worth up to £600 million. If schools want to continue to use the authority to run their payroll, library or meal services, they will have to "opt in".

Mr Byers, who unveiled the package at the annual conference of the National Association of Head Teachers, in Eastbourne, acknowl-

edged that the scheme was "not dissimilar" to opting out.

Labour fought a series of battles against opting out under the Tory Government and is in the process of abolishing grant-maintained status. Conservatives seized on the plans for a huge reduction in the role of local authorities as a U-turn.

Gillian Shephard, the former Education Secretary, said: "They have effectively adopted Conservative plans to give all schools more autonomy."

Councillors will be restricted to tightly defined areas involving raising standards and their bud-

gets will be capped if ministers consider that they are over-spending on administration.

Council leaders put a brave face on the changes but privately many were furious. Dave Wilcox, vice-chairman of the Local Government Association's education committee, said he regretted that councils were being relegated to the role of Whitehall agents.

Representatives of the grant-maintained sector were jubilant, however. Pauline Latham, who chairs the Grant-Maintained Advisory Committee, said: "This is a very positive step. Although we

regret that grant-maintained status will go, this is bringing the benefits to every school."

The proposals, which are subject to consultation until July, would secure most of the funding enjoyed by grant-maintained schools. Although they will have to co-operate with local authorities on admissions and include representatives on their governing bodies, only £45 a pupil for staff training will be transferred from their budgets.

Mr Byers told delegates: "Local authorities, when they work well, can add value to a school, but when they perform badly they become

part of the problem. The reality when it comes to raising standards is that it is what happens in individual schools and classrooms that will determine the quality of education available." Many schools had not wanted to opt out, Mr Byers said. But they did want to control their own budgets.

David Hart, general secretary of the head teachers' association, said the change could amount to a revolution in the way schools were run. "It is as close as the Government can conceivably get to the grant-maintained system, bearing in mind that local authorities have a

clear role in the Bill now before Parliament." Mr Hart said that up to £600 million would be available to schools to make savings and transfer money to help in raising standards. Head teachers in secondary schools were confident that they could make money for their schools.

Among services to be transferred from local authority control are responsibility for repairs and insurance, and funding for outdoor centres and curriculum advice. Only funding for music is to be ring-fenced in order to safeguard it for at least three years.

IN BRIEF

**Pakistan to arm missiles**

Pakistan announced yesterday that it would arm its medium-range missiles, capable of hitting most Indian cities, with nuclear warheads and warned Delhi of massive retaliation in event of an attack. Islamabad declared a state of emergency in the face of sanctions. Britain recalled its representative.

Nuclear race, 14, 15  
Leading article, page 23

**Court drama**

Days before the verdict in the Louise Woodward appeal, Elaine Whitfield-Sharp of the defence team has taken the au-pair's place at centre stage. Her taciturnity in court has been eclipsed by her alleged outspokenness outside... Page 5

**Goldwater dies**

President Clinton lamented the death of Barry Goldwater, founder of the modern conservative movement in the US, calling him "an American original". The former presidential candidate died at 89.

Obituary, page 25

**Gazza injured**

Paul Gascoigne was taken off with a muscle strain after half-time in the game against Belgium in Casablanca. It was unclear whether the injury was serious enough to threaten his role in the World Cup.

Result, page 33

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**Baby death surgeons ignored warnings**

By IAN MURRAY AND ADRIAN LEE

TWO surgeons who ignored repeated warnings that they were clinically incompetent continued to carry out complicated heart operations at a hospital in Bristol during which 29 babies died, the General Medical Council found yesterday.

A third doctor, the chief executive of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, had the authority to stop them operating but failed to do so, even though he had clear evidence that they were not up to the job.

The decision, coming at the end of the GMC's longest inquiry, was denounced by parents of some of the children who died or were left brain damaged.

The committee investigated 53 cases of which 29 ended in death; four children were left with severe brain damage. It found that three of the babies died during hole-in-the-heart operations carried out by the senior of the two surgeons, James Wisheart, 60, who was medical director of the United Bristol Hospitals Trust.

Another three died during operations by his junior, Jalandar Dhasmana, 48.

The committee found that Dr John Roylance, 67, the chief executive, should have intervened to stop the operation in January 1995 in which an 18-month-old boy, Joshua Loveday, died.

The committee meets again on June 15 to hear evidence in mitigation by the doctors before deciding whether they were guilty of serious professional misconduct. They could then be struck off the medical register, although Mr Wisheart and Dr Roylance have already retired.

Parents of the victims said they were satisfied that the

doctors could still be struck off but insisted on a public inquiry. They will meet Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary to push their claims.

As the decision was announced, Jim Stewart, whose son Ian was left brain-damaged, stood up in the public gallery and denounced the GMC. "This is a damage limitation charade," he shouted. "I demand to be heard. Why was evidence relating to my son never requested?"

Helen Rickard, 31, whose daughter, Samantha, aged 11 months, died following an operation by James Wisheart in February 1992, screamed insults as he posed for pictures with his wife, Janet, on the steps of the GMC in London.

The GMC committee found that Mr Wisheart had ignored four warnings that his performance was below par. It found that he carried out operations on two babies, Matthew Rundle and Hanna Silcox without paying sufficient heed to the prior concerns of which he should have been aware. He operated on a third baby, Harvie Shopland, even though he was aware that nine out of 15 babies on whom he had performed hole in the heart operations had died.

Mr Dhasmana was said to have carried out operations on two children even though he was aware that 16 of the babies on whom he had performed that operation in the past had died.

In Dr Roylance's case, the committee detailed over a dozen occasions in which he had been warned of the poor performance by the two surgeons but had done nothing about it.

Doctor's fight, page 3



PRINCE MAURITS, the nephew of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and fifth in line for the throne, kisses his commoner bride, Marilene van den Broek, yesterday during the country's first royal wedding in 23 years.

The couple had a civil ceremony, which was televised, at the Palace Het Loo in Apeldoorn. Among the 55

**Kiss from a prince**

fiery-orange silk two piece suit and beige hat, is the daughter of Hans van den Broek, the European Commissioner and a former Dutch Foreign Minister.

The Prince, 30 and the son of Princess Margriet and Pieter van Vollenhoven, works as head of logistics services at Schiphol Airport. The couple met five years ago at Groningen University.

**Sex drug turns aged tycoon into errant stud**

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A ONCE-IMPOTENT millionaire who ran off with a younger woman after taking a course of the potency drug Viagra is being sued for \$2 million (£1.2 million) in "palimony" by his 63-year-old partner.

Roberta "Bobbi" Burke, is also reported to be considering an action against Pfizer, the multinational pharmaceutical company that makes Viagra. Dominic Barbara, her lawyer, said yesterday: "The makers of Viagra should be liable for something like this. It's like giving a loaded gun to someone who has not been trained

to shoot." He also said that Pfizer should give warnings that the pills could be "hazardous to the health of marriages".

Ms Burke had lived with Frank "Sonny" Bernardo, 70, a building company executive from Long Island, for a decade, sharing five apartments and expensive food and wines. Their sexual life was described as "totally satisfactory for their age" until 1994 when Mr Bernardo became impotent. Mr Barbara said that Ms Burke "accepted this setback and tried to be loving and caring".

This month Mr Bernardo went to see a doctor and obtained a prescription for Viagra. Two days later, the legal papers say, he made love successfully to Ms Burke for the first time in four years.

On May 5, however, Mr Bernardo left their home, taking only his wallet, a light travelling bag, and the Viagra with him. He left Ms Burke a brief note, which said: "Hi Bobbi - Sorry but I am leaving - be back in a few days. Use bank money to move your belongings and my Mercedes for a couple of days. Sorry, but it just isn't working

out. Love, Sonny."

He has not yet returned and the New York Post now reports that Mr Bernardo has been sighted in New Jersey, "living with a slightly younger woman". The newspaper quotes Ms Burke's lawyer as saying that his client was also told by Mr Bernardo that "it's time for me to be a stud again". In addition to \$2 million, Ms Burke wants the couple's apartment, valued at \$1 million.

Doctors in Britain can already prescribe Viagra on their own authority but few are willing to do so.



**England singled out to lose its tourist board**

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE English Tourist Board, which promotes a £20 billion tourism market, is to be abolished because of cutbacks in government spending demanded by the Treasury.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, proposed the measure as a contribution to the comprehensive spending review, which is aiming for sweeping changes in Whitehall's priorities. The plan has gone before the Cabinet public spending sub-committee.

The English Tourist Board is at the centre of the battle to persuade British holidaymakers to stay at home rather than spend their vacations abroad. Last year, domestic tourism in England generated £12 billion through overnight stays, £10 billion in day trips, and maintained more than 500,000 jobs.

The Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland tourist boards will remain, although

England accounts for 85 per cent of the £40 billion tourism spend in the United Kingdom. They receive 30 times more money per head of population than the English Tourist Board.

Ken Robinson, chairman of the Tourism Society and a key adviser to Mr Smith, was scathing. He said: "It is illogical, unjustified, and a non sequitur to all the good work that the department is doing. The money being saved is peanuts in the context of government spending, but the consequences of doing away with the ETB are catastrophic for the tourism industry."

Richard Spring, the Conservative tourism spokesman, said: "The Government is already pouring 30 times more money into Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland tourism. What has the Government got against England?"

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TUESDAY Julie Walters on love, life and death

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THURSDAY

Films Richard Gere stars in Red Corner

Best for Books Reviews by Peter Ackroyd and Cameron Mackintosh

FRIDAY

How sport sells pop

SATURDAY

IN THE FREE GLOSSY MAGAZINE

Richard Ashcroft the man who calls the shots



PLUS It's Garbage metro meets the summer's hottest band

Cook plans curbs on British mercenaries

Private military firms might be regulated by government licence, reports Nicholas Wood

PLANS for legal curbs on mercenaries operating out of Britain are being studied by Robin Cook in the wake of the arms-to-Africa affair.

The Foreign Secretary is examining the possibility of regulating the activities of private military companies such as Sandline International, which helped to restore democracy in Sierra Leone earlier this year.

He is said to want to ensure that if British firms do become involved in overseas conflicts, they will be fighting "on the side of the good guys". One possible option is to require mercenary companies to secure a government licence before taking sides in a conflict.

The disclosure came as Britain urged other countries to lift the United Nations ban on arms sales to the democratically elected government of Sierra Leone and to the Nigerian-led

force that overthrew the military junta. The embargo on supplying weapons to other factions in the country would remain in place.

Labour MPs will see Mr Cook's move to regulate mercenaries as a sign of his determination to regain the political initiative after being badly damaged by the confusion over Sandline's role in Sierra Leone. It will also be taken as evidence of the Foreign Secretary's continuing commitment to his much-derided "ethical" foreign policy. Mr Cook's intervention has been partly prompted by the South African Government's decision to curb the activities of mercenaries based in

its territory. Well-placed Foreign Office sources say that the danger is that the more disreputable elements in the murky world of South African mercenaries will flee to London to escape Nelson Mandela's squeeze.

One senior Whitehall source said: "This is about making sure that companies that are sound and doing important work can continue to do so without being undermined by companies operating in shady areas and using shady methods. It is a matter of regulation, not prohibition."

It is understood that Mr Cook has asked his officials to investigate how other countries are responding to the

growth of private military companies and private security companies. The Home Office is also involved in "sensitive discussions" about some form of regulation.

One strong possibility is that the Foreign Secretary may decide to follow the South African example, where a Bill now awaiting presidential assent brings mercenaries under direct government supervision. Before accepting a contract to intervene in an area of conflict, a military company must first obtain a government licence. The assets of firms and individuals who flout this law will be liable to seizure.

Mr Cook's review of the law covering mercenaries will run in parallel to the inquiry by Sir Thomas Legg, a former senior civil servant, into the Foreign Office's handling of the Sandline affair.

IN BRIEF

Boy, 13, convicted of rape

A boy of 13 was put on the National Register of Sex Offenders for life yesterday after a jury unanimously convicted him of raping a five-year-old girl.

The boy, who was 12 at the time of the attack in a tree den at a cemetery, sat between his mother and father at Leeds Crown Court. He burst into tears when the guilty verdict was returned. The boy was released on bail to be sentenced later with the victim's 13-year-old uncle, who at the start of the trial admitted indecently assaulting the girl.

Five die in fire

Four children and their father died when fire swept through their flat in Renfrew, Strathelyde, John Lilley, 30, three-year-old twins Michael and Brian, John, nine, and Ann-Louise, five, died after being pulled from the building. Their mother and another daughter were taken to hospital.

War crime trial

A retired British Rail worker was ordered to stand trial for the alleged murder of four Jews in Belarus in 1942. Anthony Sawoniuk, 77, is alleged to have committed the crimes in German-occupied Domachevo, Mr Sawoniuk, of Bermondsey, southeast London, denies the charges.

PC dismissed

A constable was thrown out of Cleveland police yesterday after being jailed for ten years for sex attacks on women he dated. John Blott, 33, a former professional footballer, was found guilty at Leeds Crown Court on May 1 of raping two teenagers and indecently assaulting a woman.

Murder charge

A 17-year-old youth from Surrey has been charged with the murder of Russell Crookes, a student whose body was found in fields near Hadlow, Kent, after being missing for two weeks. He is expected to appear before Maidstone magistrates today. An 18-year-old male is still being questioned.

Bare stage

The Full Monty is to follow other hit films on to the American stage as a Broadway musical. The Oscar-nominated tale of jobless Sheffield men who become strippers is thought to be ideal for stage adaptation as it has many musical interludes. Several producers are said to be interested.

Minnelli tickets

We regret that the Las Minnelli ticket offer (Metro, page 4) is not valid as the star has cancelled her British tour because of illness.

School chaplain resigns over porn charges

By Victoria Fletcher and Daniel McGrory



Swindells left Tonbridge School yesterday

THE school chaplain arrested for allegedly supplying child pornography in Germany resigned yesterday as police in Kent were investigating property seized from his home in the grounds of Tonbridge School.

The Rev Andrew Swindells met Martin Hammond, the headmaster of the independent school, yesterday morning and offered to step down. His resignation was accepted and took immediate effect.

Mr Swindells has now left his school accommodation. Police raided his home on Monday in the school grounds after he was arrested at Munich station last weekend for allegedly supplying sexually explicit videos of boys between the ages of 11 and 14. He was detained in a German prison for three days before his £1,200 bail was paid for by the school, which then flew him back to London club class.

Detectives last night would not say what they discovered in his home. However, it is understood that Mr Swindells may face charges in Britain.

The school denies any pressure was put on Mr Swindells to resign after complaints from parents. A school

spokesman said: "His offer was made voluntarily during a private half-hour meeting with the headmaster, and he was not pushed into the decision. We have had very little reaction from parents to the situation."

Resentment is growing among parents at how the authorities at Tonbridge School are handling the controversy. Their indignation concerns a letter sent to every parent from Mr Hammond, which some parents say is only concerned with protecting the reputation of the school, which charges fees of £13,000 a year.

One parent, who has two teenage boys at the school, said: "Families with children at boarding schools everywhere must wonder what the priority of such schools is. Of course they care about the school's name, but maybe they forget the welfare of the boys comes first."

Governors of Tonbridge School insisted last night that they approved the letter. But they admitted it mainly concerned Mr Swindells' future.

More prisoners to be allowed television in cells

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent



but are not expected to pay for sets

THE Government is to announce an extension in the number of jails in which prisoners can have televisions in their cells.

Thousands more inmates in the 135 prisons in England and Wales will be allowed televisions as part of the earned privileges scheme that is designed to improve behaviour.

MPs will be informed next week that Home Office ministers have backed a plan from senior officials in the Prison Service to equip jails with tens of thousands of sets.

The proposal marks the culmination of a long-running Whitehall battle that won the support of senior figures in the judiciary, Prison Service and prisons inspectorate but was resolutely opposed by Michael Howard, the former Conservative Home Secretary.

Under the proposal, inmates would rent their sets, having qualified for the privilege as a result of hard work and good behaviour. But inmates will not be expected to purchase a licence because prisons have Crown Immunity and do not need one.

About 2,000 prisoners in about 20 jails have televisions in their cells at present. Four years ago 130 inmates at Strangeways jail in Manchester paid a £10 deposit plus £3 a week, while in Garth jail near Preston inmates pay 40p a week to receive programmes

of an act of indiscipline at Parc three months ago. Discussions are currently taking place over whether further fines will be imposed on the private sector firm for its failures in running the 800-inmate jail near Bridgend in South Wales.

Parc, hailed as the first high-tech jail which allowed prisoners to use swipe cards and used the advanced technology automatically to open cell doors and gates, has been hit by a series of troubles since it opened last November.

Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "It has been a shambles. The plans they are now putting in place will, over time, improve the situation. But by any standards this has been a difficult six months."

High-tech jail finds the key

By Richard Ford

THE first high-tech jail in Britain is to return to more traditional methods by bringing back keys to help staff to move around the prison.

The embarrassing disclosure that "old technology" is making a comeback at Parc jail comes after the discovery that a centrally controlled system of opening gates and the use of swipe cards at the jail resulted in long delays for prison officers and visitors.

The Prison Service has also imposed a £50,000 fine on Securicor Custodial Services, the firm running the jail, for its failure to inform the service

of an act of indiscipline at Parc three months ago. Discussions are currently taking place over whether further fines will be imposed on the private sector firm for its failures in running the 800-inmate jail near Bridgend in South Wales.

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Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "It has been a shambles. The plans they are now putting in place will, over time, improve the situation. But by any standards this has been a difficult six months."

Racial violence broke out between black prisoners from London and the "Rhonda Skins", a gang from the South Wales valleys, a swastika was daubed on the wall of the segregation unit and one wing was closed for redecoration after racist graffiti were allegedly found on walls.

Staffing levels at the jail are being increased amid concern in Whitehall.

Pay-per-view deal on soccer rejected

By John Goodboon Sports News Correspondent

THE FA Premier League yesterday refused to be bounced into a pay-per-view television deal, rejecting an offer from BSkyB worth £10 million next season to the elite clubs.

The 20 club chairman decided that it was "not in the best interests of football as a whole" to accept the proposals. However, discussions with Sky will continue.

The Football League, supporters' organisations, the Professional Footballers' Association, the Conservative Family Campaign and even civic authorities had opposed the proposals, which would have switched four more Premier League matches next season from Saturday to Sunday, with Sky having the option to screen between one and four on pay-per-view. That would cost individuals £9.95 a match.

After an hour's discussion the clubs agreed, without a vote, not to accept the deal.

Ken Bates of Chelsea said he was pleased with the outcome while Brian Richardson of Coventry added that it was a "very positive meeting".

Peter Leaver, the Leeds chief executive, said there was "unanimity on the subject; we want

BBC Radio Five Live has secured a two-year extension in its exclusive broadcasting rights of the Premier League. The station's current deal was due to expire next year and the new agreement, for an undisclosed amount, covers up until the summer of 2001.

to make certain that the whole thing is properly structured". He said that the issue was not a matter of money. "If it had been, it would have been comparatively simple. However, there are wider issues to resolve, issues with our supporters, and we need to talk to people who invest in the game."

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, the parent company of The Times, has been keen to conclude a deal. Vic Waking, head of sport, said yesterday: "The proposals were never going to be agreed today. There are still too many details to be discussed and Sky shares the Premier League's wish to get it right for all football fans."

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THE TIMES SATURDAY Docto Hospital i from wor

WHEN Stephen... appointed consultant... theist at the Royal... infirmary in 1988... he was joining... paediatric surgical... the country... He had not been... there for long when... that operations per... the senior surgeon... Wisheart, were... three times longer... he had attended... hospital... Brompton in Le... was especially serv... babies, who were... relatively routine... They would be pu... bypass machines... hours, increasing... brain damage and... the heart once the... was over... When babies... Wisheart would... the parents by tel... that the operation... success but that... heart had not be... enough, so it wou... anyway. This di... with Dr Bolin's... and he began to... what was happen... 18 months he fel... enough data to p... that infants oper... Bristol had doub... rate of other uni... same operation... He was also... about the outcome... operations, which... great arteries of... babies born with... front. The operat... performed in Brit... and had become... lished procedure... Janardan Dhasma... other consultant... ing paediatric wo... performed his fir... operation there in... seven of the 14... underwent the operation...

THE CONSU Much-g inspire

JAMES WISHEART is a softly spoken Ulsterman, who qualified as a doctor in Belfast in 1962 when he was just 24. He was a brilliant student and decided to specialise, first in obstetrics and then in surgery. By the time he was 30 he was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and marked out as a high-flyer. After working as a senior registrar at the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street in London he was appointed as consultant in cardiac and thoracic surgery in 1975 in Bristol, where he decided to settle. By 1984 he was a Fellow of

Deaths put down to bad luck

JANARDAN DHASMANA qualified at Lucknow, India, in 1964 and came to Britain in 1971. He is married and lives in Westbury Park, Bristol. He became senior surgical registrar at Bristol in 1978 and, spent 1980 at the University of Alabama taking a fellowship in cardiac surgery. He returned to Bristol "fired up" to do paediatric work. In January, 1986, he was appointed consultant in cardiothoracic surgery. In the following year the number of children operated on for heart conditions rose from 70 to 100, with the number of those under a year old up from 20 to 30. By 1990 the numbers were

Medical co

NEW professional standards are being drawn up by the royal medical colleges to make it possible for a doctor to continue practising if his performance falls below an acceptable level. This will make it obvious if any surgeon is consistently having poorer outcomes from operations than the national average. The surgeon would not be allowed to work until undergoing some retraining. A recent survey found that 18 of the 199 consultant heart surgeons in Britain had been investigated for alleged incompetence. Although most have been cleared, the fact that so



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# Doctor who fought to stop babies dying

## Hospital ignored warnings from worried anaesthetist

By IAN MURRAY

WHEN Stephen Bolsin was appointed consultant anaesthetist at the Bristol Royal Infirmary in 1988, he thought he was joining one of the best paediatric surgical teams in the country.

He had not been working there for long when he noticed that operations performed by the senior surgeon, James Wisheart, were lasting up to three times longer than those he had attended at his previous hospital, the Royal Brompton in London. This was especially serious for the babies, who were dying from relatively routine operations. They would be put on heart bypass machines for up to five hours, increasing the risk of brain damage and strain on the heart once the operation was over.

When babies died, Mr Wisheart would try to comfort the parents by telling them that the operation had been a success but that the child's heart had not been strong enough, so it would have died anyway. This did not tally with Dr Bolsin's experience and he began to make notes of what was happening. Within 18 months he felt he had enough data to prove his case that infants operated on at Bristol had double the mortality rate of other units doing the same operation.

He was also concerned about the outcome of switch operations, which swap the great arteries of the heart in babies born with them back to front. The operation was first performed in Britain in 1977 and had become an established procedure by the 1980s. Janardan Dhasmana, the other consultant surgeon doing paediatric work at Bristol, performed his first switch operation there in 1988 and seven of the 14 babies that underwent the operation over



Bolsin: prepared a detailed audit

the next four years died. Mortality rates generally were so high that black medical humour dubbed the unit "the departure lounge".

Dr Bolsin decided to write to his senior manager, John Roylance, about his concerns, but he received no written reply. Dr Roylance told Dr Bolsin to raise the matter with Mr Wisheart, who reprimanded him for writing the letter.

Dr Bolsin began to prepare a detailed audit. In 1992 he presented details to the board of the United Bristol Hospital Trust, which had been created in 1991 with Dr Roylance as chief executive and Mr Wisheart as medical director.

No action from the trust was forthcoming, but after Dr Bolsin alerted the Department of Health about his worries, the Royal College of Surgeons found that, in the 18 months up to October 1993, nine out of 13 newborn babies died after operations at Bristol. The mortality rate was 66 per cent compared to the national average of 11 per cent.

£1,979,000 for the financial year 1992-93 and a further £1,988,000 for 1993-94.

The operations continued. Between mid-1992 and the start of 1995, Mr Dhasmana carried out 21 switch operations. Twelve of the babies died and one was severely brain damaged.

Over a similar period, Mr Wisheart's performance in carrying out hole-in-the-heart operations was causing concern. Whereas he succeeded with five of the seven babies he operated on in 1990 and 1991, seven out of eight died between February 1992 and August 1994.

By 1993 Dr Bolsin had an ally in Gianni Angelini, a brilliant but excitable Italian who was appointed Professor of Cardiac Surgery at Bristol University. Professor Angelini, who was trying to make Bristol a major teaching centre for cardiac surgery, drew up a report for the hospital trust board in 1994 in which he called for the appointment of a new paediatric cardiac surgeon and an end to all neonatal switch operations until one was appointed.

The hospital trust board agreed to appoint a new surgeon, but in January 1995, before he arrived, Mr Dhasmana carried out a non-emergency switch operation on an 18-month-old boy, Joshua Loveday, who died on the operating table. Dr Bolsin decided he could no longer continue at the hospital and took up a post in Australia.

The new paediatric heart surgeon, Ash Pawade, arrived from Australia in May 1995 and since then has succeeded in making Bristol one of the safest places in the world for operations on children with congenital heart problems with a death rate of 11 per cent.

The death of Joshua Loveday persuaded Dr Roylance that there was a need for an outside review of paediatric



James Wisheart, leaving the GMC inquiry yesterday, passes a picture of Ian Stewart, left brain-damaged after an operation at Bristol

heart surgery and he invited Marc de Leval, from Great Ormond Street, to undertake it. He concluded that Mr Wisheart had an 87 per cent mortality rate among hole-in-the-heart patients compared with one of 8.6 per cent for Mr Dhasmana.

Summing up his findings in a draft, Mr de Leval wrote that there was no doubt that Mr Dhasmana compared favourably with surgeons in the best British institutions. Mr Wisheart "would be among the higher-risk surgeons".

The report was not meant to be published, and when Dr Roylance discovered it had been promised to a local BBC television reporter he persuaded Mr de Leval to change the

wording in a way that removed any comparison between the two doctors.

Publication of the report was followed by a Channel 4 documentary called *The Lost Children*, which detailed the mortality rates among babies operated on by the two surgeons.

In June 1996, the parents wrote to the GMC asking for an investigation. Mr Wisheart resigned as medical director in December and three months later an independent review of adult cardiology at the hospital revealed that his patients had a four times higher risk of mortality than other surgeons in the unit.

The GMC inquiry began in October 1997.

## 'We believed his words'

By IAN MURRAY

### THE PARENTS

PARENTS of children who died after operations by the two surgeons had no idea that anything was wrong.

"We just thought we were the unlucky few and it was only later we discovered we were one of the unlucky many," said Michaela Willis, whose son Daniel died a week after he was born with a back-to-front heart in May 1993.

"When Mr Dhasmana told us Daniel had an 85 per cent chance of surviving the operation, we believed him totally. It was only when the evidence

writing letters to the Health Department and in June 1996 asked the General Medical Council for an inquiry.

Media coverage of what was going on alerted other parents but it was not until the GMC hearing began last October that they began to be organised into a group by Malcolm Currow, a Devon policeman whose daughter Verity died in 1989.

In February the group demonstrated outside the GMC and presented a petition in Downing Street, calling for a public inquiry. They intend to continue pressing for one.

### THE CONSULTANTS WHOSE PATHS CROSSED IN BRISTOL

## Much-garlanded high-flyer inspired trust and respect

JAMES WISHEART is a softly-spoken Ulsterman, who qualified as a doctor in Belfast in 1962 when he was just 24. He was a brilliant student and decided to specialise, first in obstetrics and then in surgery.

By the time he was 30 he was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and marked out as a high-flyer.

After working as a senior registrar at the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street in London he was appointed as consultant in cardiac and thoracic surgery in 1975 in Bristol, where he decided to settle.

By 1984 he was a Fellow of

the Royal College of Surgeons of England and he helped to establish Bristol as one of the leading centres in Britain for heart surgery.

He became chairman of the hospital medical committee, associate clinical director of cardiothoracic surgery, and in 1992 medical director of the United Bristol Hospitals Trust. To widen his knowledge he made several study trips to America, becoming a research fellow of the University of Alabama.

He kept comprehensive notes of each patient and held twice-weekly meetings to discuss cases. Every month or so colleagues would go to his home to discuss general poli-

cy. He would start work early and finish late, undertaking an extensive workload in both adult and paediatric surgery.

His diligence was rewarded by the National Health Service with merit money. In 1994, four years after he was first made aware of concerns about the safety of his paediatric operations, he was granted an A award worth £38,995 a year, in addition to his £55,705 salary. He and his wife, Janet, consequently enjoy a comfortable lifestyle and home is an impressive three-storey Georgian villa.

Mr Wisheart was at the very top of his profession. Maria Shortis, whose nine-

week-old daughter Jacinta died after a heart operation at the hospital, said: "As he walked about you could see that he generated respect from everyone. People spoke of him in hushed tones.

"He is a very able communicator and so experienced that he always inspired trust. If he told you that your child had an 80 per cent chance of surviving an operation, you automatically believed him."

"He is mild-mannered and seems so caring. I am a parent of a child who died there, yet when I saw him before the GMC my immediate reaction was to think: 'You poor man. What are these people trying to do to you?'"

## Deaths put down to bad luck

JANARDAN DHASMANA qualified at Lucknow, India, in 1964 and came to Britain in 1971. He is married and lives in Westbury Park, Bristol.

He became senior surgical registrar at Bristol in 1978 and, on Mr Wisheart's advice, spent 1980 at the University of Alabama taking a fellowship in cardiac surgery. He returned to Bristol "fired up" to do paediatric work.

In January, 1986, he was appointed consultant in cardiothoracic surgery. In the following year the number of children operated on for heart conditions rose from 70 to 100, with the number of those under a year old up from 20 to 30. By 1990 the numbers were



Dhasmana: 20 babies died in 38 operations

up to 160, of whom 40 were under a year old.

Two years later he began doing the operations to switch the great arteries on babies born with them the wrong way round. He was to perform 38 such operations: 20 babies died. He admitted to the GMC that he was on a learning curve and carried on because he thought he was having beginner's bad luck.

## Consultant turned manager

JOHN ROYLANCE qualified in 1954 and a year later took a short service commission as a doctor in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He trained as a radiologist, becoming a fellow of the Faculty of Radiologists in 1964.

He worked as a radiology registrar at Southmead Hospital in Bristol from 1959 to 1963, when he obtained a job at Bristol Royal Infirmary, becoming a consultant radiologist there a year later.

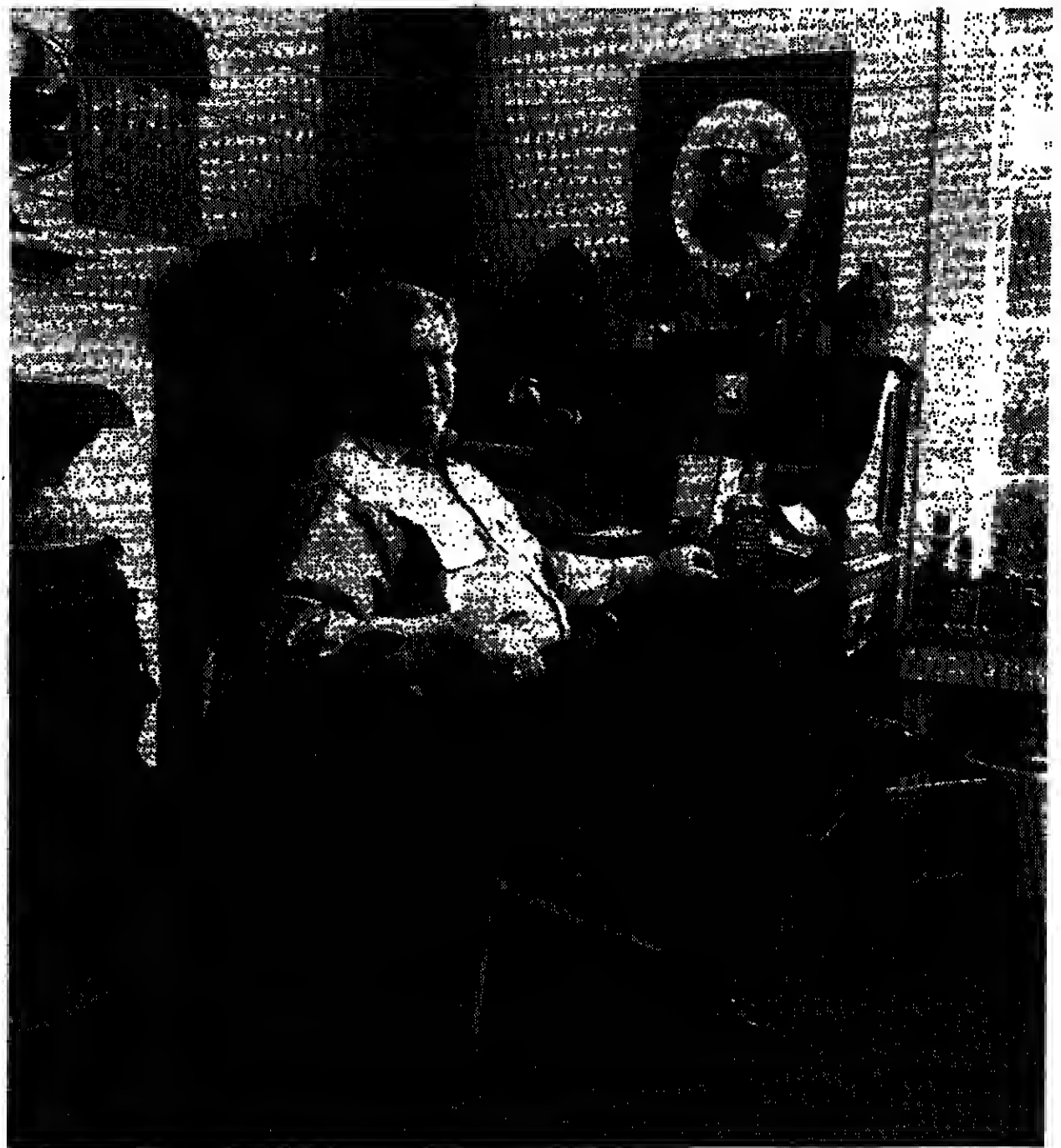
Elected a fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists when it was formed in 1975, he became an examiner in the specialty and editor of the *British Journal of Radiology*. A member of the Council of



Roylance elected fellow of his royal college

British Radiology, he had also served for a while as chairman of the Bristol health district in the late 1970s. He remained a consultant until 1985 when he became district general manager for the hospital.

Appointed chief executive of the new hospital trust in 1991, he was also a member of the University Medical Board and of the United Bristol Hospitals, and one of the trustees.



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## Medical colleges to raise standards

NEW professional standards are being drawn up by the royal medical colleges to make it impossible for a doctor to continue practising if his performance falls below an acceptable level.

This will make it obvious if any surgeon is consistently having poorer outcomes from operations than the national average. The surgeon would not be allowed to work until undergoing some retraining.

A recent survey found that 15 of the 199 consultant heart surgeons in Britain had been investigated for alleged incompetence. Although most have been cleared, the fact that so

### THE FUTURE

many have been under review means that some are not prepared to carry out difficult operations for fear of repercussions if things go wrong. Others are being deterred from entering a high-risk specialty where mistakes show up so easily. On average, a heart surgeon can expect to perform about eight operations a week and up to 250 a year.

All hospital specialties are being asked to supply information on which the new standards can be based. For heart surgery, death rates for the different procedures will probably serve

as the baseline. Orthopaedic surgeons could be judged by the frequency of repeat hip replacement operations.

The idea for the system came from the British Medical Association. The Academy of Royal Medical Colleges has now taken on the task of collecting the information, which will form the basis of the system.

The Government is also working on plans to improve clinical performance through the Commission for Health Improvement and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, which are being created in line with last November's White Paper on reforming the National Health Service.



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# New player hijacks Woodward drama

As the case draws to its close, it is becoming a soap opera, write Tunku Varadarajan and Daniel McGrory

THE Louise Woodward drama, which has held the world's attention for well over a year, now has a new lead player. Days before the verdict in the appeal by both prosecution and defence is expected in Boston, Elaine Whitfield Sharp, a member of the Woodward legal defence team has usurped the British au pair's place at the centre of the stage.

Woodward was found guilty of second-degree murder after the child in her care, eight-month-old Matthew Eappen, died from brain and skull injuries in February 1997. As an international clamour grew for her release, a Massachusetts judge freed her from prison last November when the charge was reduced to manslaughter. If her appeal fails, she could be sent back to jail with a minimum of 15 years before parole.

Ms Whitfield Sharp, 44 and born in Chester, is the woman with whom Woodward has been living since her release from prison last year by Judge Hiller Zobel. Homely, overweight and bespectacled, she became a familiar sight to television viewers as she sat by Woodward's side throughout the trial. It would be no exaggeration to say that she came to be seen by Woodward as a kind of mother figure.

Ms Whitfield Sharp spoke not a word during the case, but her taciturnity in court has now been eclipsed by her alleged outspokenness out of it. She made the headlines this week after she was stopped by a Massachusetts state trooper and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. The officer, Sergeant Randy Cipolletta, later filed a report in which he stated that she had said that she now believed that Woodward was guilty of causing the death of Matthew.

According to the report, she attributed her drinking to a crisis of conscience. The lawyer denied that she had said any such thing, and accused the trooper of concocting a fiction to blacken her name. One of the reasons he would have done so, she contended, was that she had once defused the wife of another trooper in an acrimonious child custody case.

Ms Whitfield Sharp, who did not contest the drink-driving charges in court the next day and who agreed to submit to alcohol counselling, is well known to the British journalists who followed Woodward's trial and subsequent appeal.

Others who know her say there is a less convivial side to Ms Whitfield Sharp, and speak of her sharp tongue and temper. In one instance, in 1991, she was jailed by a judge in Michigan for contempt of court after she made a series of insolent remarks to him. After the contretemps with the trooper, Ms Whitfield Sharp has come swiftly under the spotlight of the British tabloids. *The Mirror*, citing a secretly taped conversation the lawyer had with a friend, has said that she described Woodward as "a pain in the ass" and a liar who was secretly negotiating a book deal. *The Express* reported that Ms Whitfield Sharp had "kicked Louise out" from her home after the au pair had engaged in a series of bizarre rituals, including séances.

There appears to be truth in the report that Woodward is no longer living in the Sharp home. On Thursday night, *The Times* tracked her down to the home of Tim Hunt, another British expatriate in Marblehead, the prosperous Massachusetts village in which Ms Whitfield Sharp lives. Woodward answered the telephone at the Hunt home and said that the family was out. She hung up when asked whether she was now living there.

Support for Woodward was unwavering in her Cheshire village last night as friends insisted they have not mispent the £250,000 public donations to her campaign. Once again the residents of Elton gathered outside The Rigger pub to defend Woodward's reputation. In a succession of television interviews they lined up to insist on the 20-year-old au pair's innocence and deny accusations that she is secretly negotiating a £30,000 book deal to cash in on her notoriety.

The vicar, the Rev Ken Davey, who is chairman of the campaign fund, said there was no impropriety in how the money had been spent. He said: "Everything is fully accounted for, as far as the trustees are concerned. Any allegations that there is no accountability would be downright lies."

Mr Davey said last night that the fund had received a bill from Ms Whitfield Sharp and added that it might not be able to meet all the costs. "There is less than £50,000 left. We have spent over £200,000 in legal fees, where the bulk of the money has gone. Just over £250,000 came in".

Sandra McCabe, who helped to start the fund, said: "My support is not wavering, and I don't think anyone else's is. People here support her as much as ever. We just want a verdict, that would be the best thing for Louise."



Elaine Whitfield Sharp in court with Woodward. The lawyer has taken centre stage after her alleged outburst

‘We want a verdict, that would be the best thing for Louise’

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Villagers in Elton cheer after Woodward's release

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# Severn Bridge's short cut to glory

JAY WILLIAMS

**Engineering triumph wins Grade I listing 32 years after it opened, reports Marcus Binney**

THE first Severn road bridge, one of the triumphs of British engineering, received the accolade of a Grade I listing yesterday, only 32 years after its official opening on September 8, 1966.

Announcing the listing of ten postwar bridges, Tony Banks, Under-Secretary in the Culture Department, said the bridge was "a design classic of international importance".

The bridge was begun in 1961 to the designs of Freeman Fox and Partners, with Mott Hay & Anderson (now Mott MacDonald) and Sir Percy Thomas, and was built in tandem with the Forth Road Bridge that opened two years earlier.

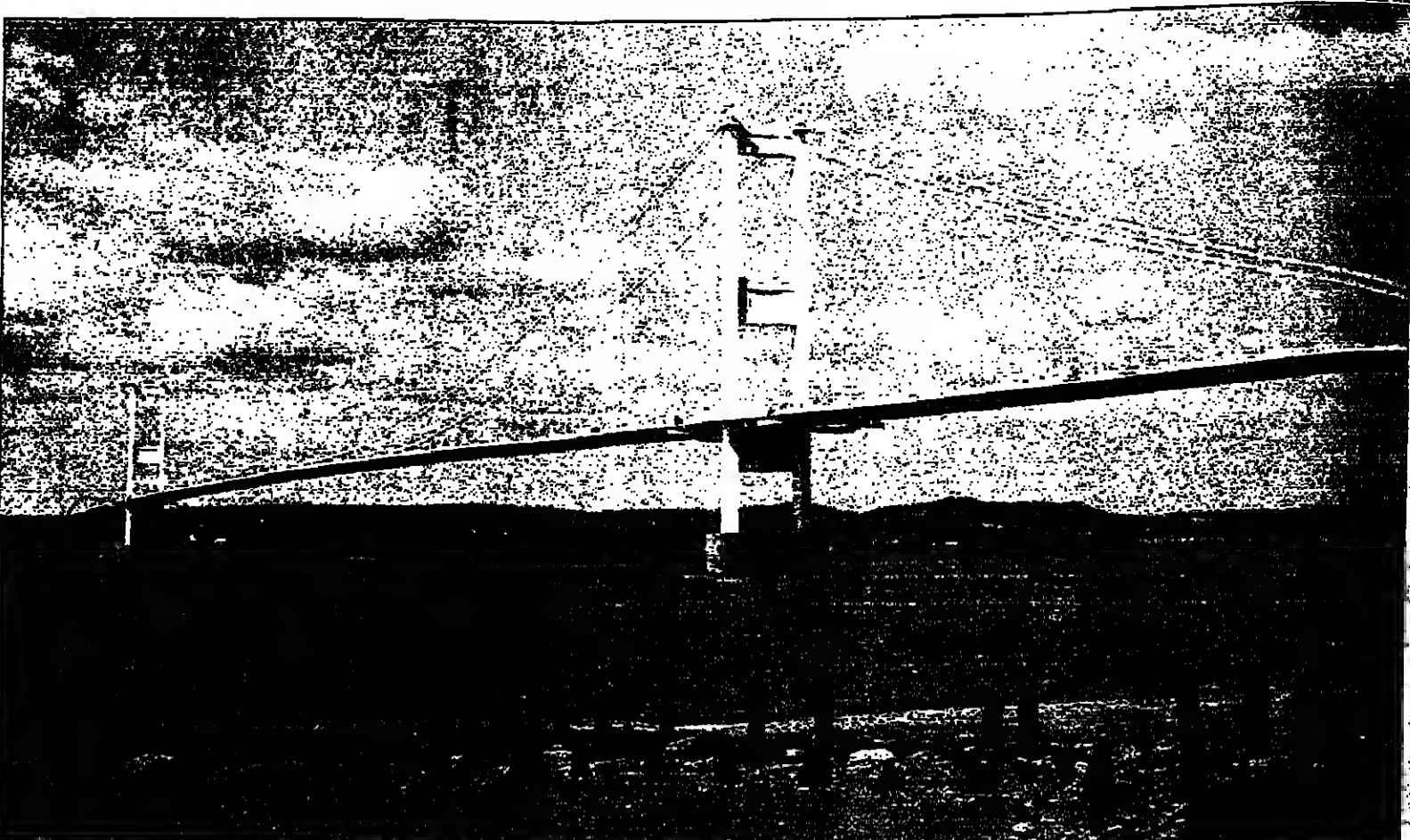
Suspension bridge designers the world over had taken fright at the collapse of "Galloping Gertie", a suspension bridge with a 2,800ft span in Washington State, which began to twist and buckle in a moderate wind of 42mph and, on November 7, 1940, crashed into the water below.

For the next quarter of a century, all major suspension bridges were massively constructed with a stiffening truss beneath the road deck. Colin Davis, head of bridge design at Mott MacDonald, recalled: "Wind-tunnel tests for the Forth Road Bridge allowed us to develop a new lightweight form of construction for the Severn Bridge. Instead of a strengthening truss, the bridge is formed of a streamlined box that minimises wind resistance and allows huge economies in scale and materials."

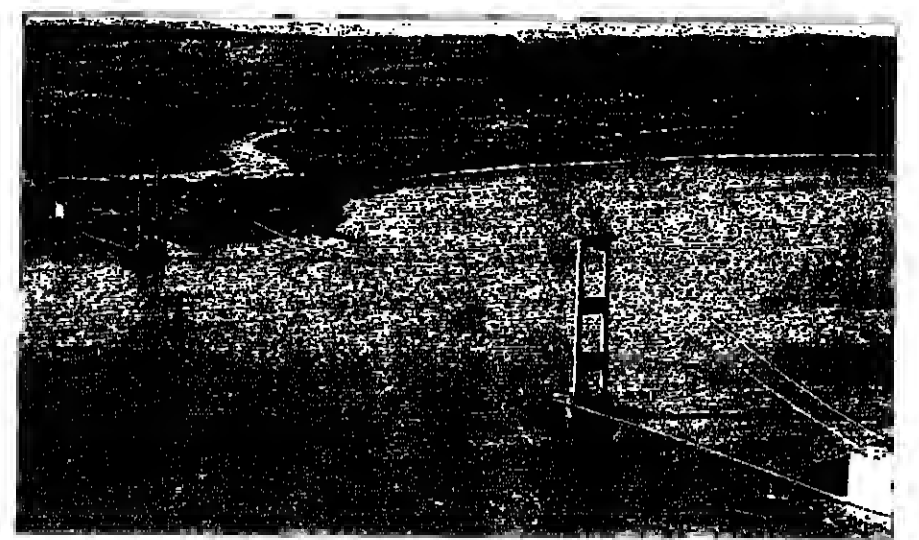
Work began in 1961. The Severn's swift flow and high tides created severe problems in setting the foundations for the bridge piers. With the west pier, workmen were able to work on the base only during two 20-minute periods a day at low tide. After the towers were built, the deck sections were prefabricated in 60ft lengths at a steelworks in Chesham, floated down the river and lifted into position.

The desire for innovation led Freeman Fox to develop the "box-girder" bridge, in which box sections were craned into position and welded outwards from the bridge piers. But within three months two of their box-girder bridges collapsed, one at Millford Haven, killing four men, and another at Melbourne, Australia, killing 35.

The name Freeman Fox disappeared when the firm was taken over in the 1980s; with it went many records of great importance. The Department of Transport commis-



The Severn Bridge, which revolutionised the design of long-span bridges with its use of streamlined box sections to minimise wind resistance



Construction was hampered by the Severn's strong currents and high tides

sioned two practices to work in conjunction on the design of the Severn Bridge because it wanted the strongest possible team for the pioneering structure. However, Sir Gilbert Roberts of Freeman Fox is believed to have been the lead designer.

By the early 1980s, the bridge was carrying three times the load for which it was designed, and in 1983 an engineer's report stated that the bridge's twin towers could collapse without warning in a high wind; even with no traffic on it, the bridge might collapse in a 100mph wind. High-sided vehicles had to be banned from using the bridge in high winds.

Strengthening was carried out between 1985 and 1991. The hangers supporting the road deck were replaced and the towers reinforced by internal tubular columns. Mr Davis said: "The bridge is now fully compliant with all Department of Transport specifica-

tions and is a very robust and durable structure. We have people on site carrying out maintenance from day to day and it has a good long life ahead of it."

Mott MacDonald has gone from strength to strength. Mr Davis said: "The bridge made Britain the world centre for long-span bridges. We have recently designed the Tsing Ma bridge link to the new airport in Hong Kong and are now working on another link

to Lantau island [also in the former colony] some 4,600ft long."

There are 169 Grade I listed bridges in England and 190 equivalents in Scotland; the Forth Road Bridge is not among them, although the rail bridge is. The listed bridges in England include the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol; the high-level bridge in Newcastle upon Tyne, the Salton Ash Railway Bridge and Tower Bridge in London.

## Feats that span a brilliant career

ONE OF Britain's most brilliant engineers emerged from obscurity last night to take much of the credit for designing and building five of the world's greatest suspension bridges (Marcus Binney writes).

Michael Parsons, of the engineering firm Freeman Fox & Partners, played a key role not only in the Severn Bridge but in the Forth Road Bridge, both the suspension bridges across the Straits of Bosphorus and the Humber Bridge.

Mr Parsons also had a hand in the design of the Dome of Discovery for the Festival of Britain exhibition in 1951 and ended his career doing outline drawings for the Straits of Messina crossing between Italy and Sicily which, if built, will become the world's longest bridge span. Mr Parsons said: "When I joined the firm in 1949, there

were outline designs for the towers of the Severn Bridge by the architect Sir Percy Thomas. He wanted portal-type bridge towers, as opposed to the cross-braced towers of the Forth Bridge."

He said the obvious place to build the bridge was where the second crossing is now, using a lot of wadded with a small bridge over the navigational channel. "But our chief designer had been impressed with the big American suspension bridges. They used concrete decking and heavy supporting trusses. We reduced the cost and amount of material by designing an aerodynamic steel box."

Mr Parsons was placed in charge of the crucial engineering analysis for the Forth Road Bridge. On the Severn Bridge he carried out the wind tunnel tests and ended up as resident engineer.

## This week

"In search of a brave new world, they found a great new recipe for chicken."

**CAJUN COUNTRY.** There's more to Cajun history than Shrimp Gumbo and accordions. Peter McCarthy investigates one of the more shameful episodes in Britain's history and how modern day Cajuns and Creoles are still coming to terms with it. Sunday afternoons from 31 May, 12.04 - 12.30.

"Seats available in the front row - in your front room."

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"See the world through the eyes of two colour blind policemen."

**AN INSPECTOR CALLS.** A two-part series investigating racism and diversity. In this week's programme, PCs Couch and Armstrong of Wagon's Racial Incident Unit deal with racism and racism face-to-face. Monday evenings from 4 June, 8.02 - 8.30.

"There were some people that tortured me, but there were some people who were a bandage to my wounds." (Vedran, displaced person.)

**AFTER THE FIGHTING IS OVER.** Larry Hollingworth, former Chief of Operations for the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, returns to Bosnia. He visits the men, women and children who became his friends and talks to them about their past tragedies and future hopes. Tuesday mornings from 2 June, 11.02 - 11.30.

"What is the next number in the following series? 4, 2, 3, 4, 6, 2, 3, 9, ..."

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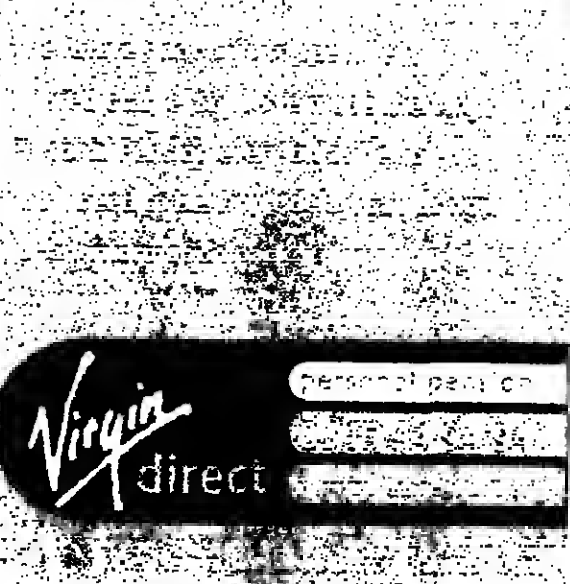
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## A light lunch is a waste of time

By Nigel Hawton  
SCIENCE

SEVERAL studies have shown that a light lunch is a waste of time. A study by the University of Cambridge showed that people who ate a light lunch spent more time in the office than those who ate a heavy lunch. The results were based on a study of 100 office workers. The study found that people who ate a light lunch spent 15% more time in the office than those who ate a heavy lunch. The study also found that people who ate a light lunch were more likely to be absent from work than those who ate a heavy lunch. The study was conducted over a period of six weeks. The researchers found that people who ate a light lunch were more likely to be absent from work than those who ate a heavy lunch. The study was conducted over a period of six weeks. The researchers found that people who ate a light lunch were more likely to be absent from work than those who ate a heavy lunch.

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### A light lunch is a waste of time

By Nigel Hawkes  
SCIENCE EDITOR

SELF-DENIAL at lunch-time is unlikely to have any effect on the waistline, a study in America has shown. People simply compensate later in the day, eating more fat or carbohydrate to bring them to the level at which they feel comfortable.

The result is that they eat the same amount of fat or carbohydrate each day, regardless of how healthy their lunch might be, according to Professor John Allred, of Ohio State University, who led the study.

He enrolled 25 male college students and for three weeks gave them a modest lunch consisting of an instant milkshake. The shakes were formulated either with full-fat milk, skimmed milk or skimmed milk plus sugar. The full-fat shakes provided 614 calories and the skimmed milkshakes 516, unless sugar was added to bring them back to 614. The students kept food diaries recording everything else they ate.

The results were clear-cut. Those who had the higher-fat shakes compensated by eating more carbohydrate for the rest of the day, while those who had the lower-fat shakes with sugar made up for it by eating more fat. Those who were deprived of calories by being given the low-fat shakes without sugar simply added the extra calories by eating more later in the day.

"There seem to be biochemical signals that, unknown to you, regulate calorie, carbohydrate and fat intake," Professor Allred told a recent meeting of the American Society of Nutritional Scientists. "Our bodies are much more in control of our food choices than we think they are."



Members of the Harrow Leisure Club working out in their efforts to be fit

## The toughest question in sport: who is fittest?

The race to find the answer starts next week, reports David Powell

IT MAY be an inexact science, but a competition will be launched next Wednesday to find Britain's fittest man and woman.

Some say it cannot be done — "there are a million types of fitness", Max Jones, Britain's chief athletics coach, said — but the organisers of the London Triathlon believe that they have come up with the best test yet.

Triathlons have replaced the marathon as the modern examination of endurance. However, the swim-cycling-run combination barely scratches the surface compared to the demands of the X Zone, a challenge that involves ten gymnasium-based disciplines. Among them is a step-climb equivalent to the height of the Blackpool Tower.

Michael Smithwick, the London Triathlon manager who is behind the X Zone challenge, is adamant that, because his competition tests a broad range of fitness, and because it is being promoted through 2,700 health clubs, the winners will be entitled to call themselves Britain's fittest man and woman.

Mr Smithwick rejects the suggestion that the absence of stars from professional sport, such as Alan Shearer, Tim Henman and Chris Boardman, will render the X Zone worthless in its aim. "There is no professional sportsman who would get anywhere near the guy who wins this," Mr Smithwick said. "These are going to be people who do multiple sport all the time. They would beat any footballer, rower, cyclist or boxer."

It is a view that Tim Foster, a member of Britain's world champion coxless fours rowing team, goes some way to endorsing. "A lot of people at the top of any particular sport have to specialise in what they do," he said.

"The X Zone, by combining cycling, rowing, running, push-ups etc, is going to be a whole-body competition.

Going from one test to another without a rest is incredibly tough."

Up to 1,000 competitors will be accepted for the two-day competition at the NEC, Birmingham, next March. They will have to go through two rounds and a final, racing in groups of ten or 12 along rows of almost £1 million worth of machines. Other

competitors to raise something like £200,000 for each charity," Mr Smithwick said.

The thought of competition never crosses the mind of many a fitness club addict. "For a lot of people, it is the quest for the perfect body that motivates them," Tiago Carvalho, manager of a club in Chichester, West Sussex, said. He is half right in relation to

trying to judge the brain of Britain. Is it on general knowledge? Is it like *Masernind*, where you pick your own category, or is it on IQ? This competition is one version of fitness."

Tim Anstiss, a former Great Britain international decathlete, a contender in television's *Gladiators* and now a doctor in sports medicine at West London Healthcare Trust, said the X Zone was the best test he knew to find Britain's fittest sportsman and woman. "Technically, the way to find the fittest person would be to do maximal fitness testing on everybody and find the person with the highest VO<sub>2</sub> max."

"That would give us the person who can bring in the most oxygen from the atmosphere and metabolise it in the working muscles. Generally, that is done in a laboratory and that is dry and academic."

"What is interesting about this is that the athletes are going from event to event and they are going to develop fatigue in one set of muscles, then in another set. Physiologically, it is very demanding. If the cost doesn't wind you, the effort will."

For X Zone entry details, contact Esprit Marketing, 176 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8ER. Tel: 0171-928 5055



There is no professional sportsman who would get anywhere near the winner

than cycling, running and rowing, disciplines include a 10ft wall climb (15ft in the final), chin-ups and dips. The competition will be split into age-groups. "We also want people of 40, 50, 60 or 70 to enter," Mr Smithwick said.

The main stumbling blocks are the £220 entry fee (hotel included) and the commitment each entrant must make to raise money for one of five nominated charities. "We ex-

pect Mr Wykes, one of his members. Mr Wykes, a fireman, spends 90 minutes a day in the gym, driven by a combination of professional instinct and image. "If you go into a fire to get someone out, you are their last chance and it helps to be fit," he said. "But there is also a degree of vanity. Look around the gyms: they have all got mirrors."

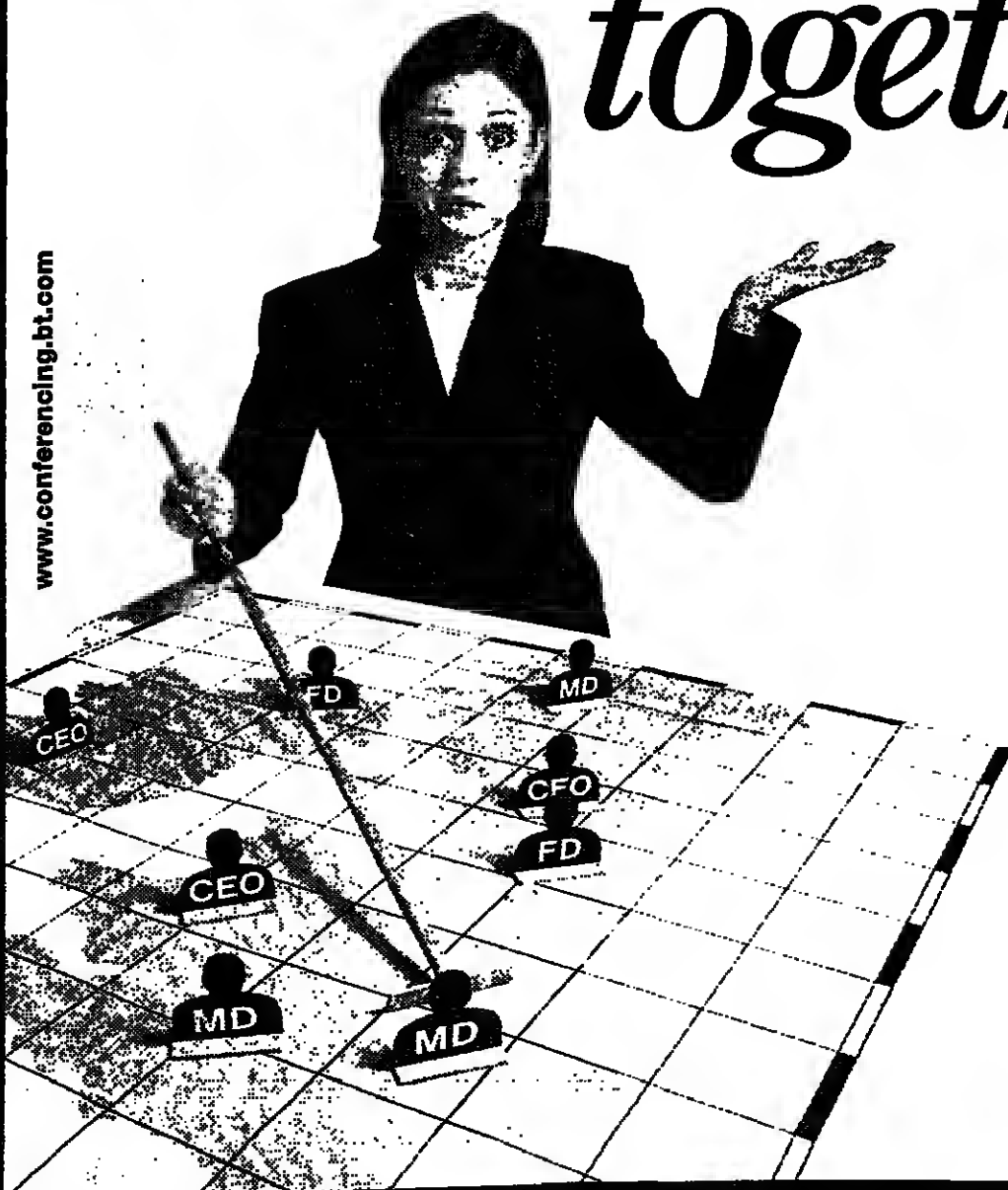
Max Jones asks the question: "What is fitness? It is like

#### HOW FIT ARE YOU?

Discipline	Task	Average fit male min:sec	Average fit female min:sec	Super fit male min:sec	Super fit female min:sec
Recurrent cycling	1.5km	2:45	3:20	2:25	2:54
Push-ups	40 (men), 25 (women)	1:40	1:40	1:15	1:15
Running machine	2km	8:00	9:38	7:30	9:00
Chin ups	20reps	1:40	2:00	1:25	1:42
Tyres/balance beam/tyres	10 metres course	0:25	0:30	0:20	0:25
Rowing machine	1.5k	8:50	8:12	8:30	7:48
Scaling wall with rope	10ft	0:40	1:00	0:30	0:45
Step machine	40 floors	7:30	9:00	6:48	8:10
Exercise ball	3km	8:00	7:12	5:12	6:50
Cargo Net	20ft	3:00	3:36	2:45	3:18
Finishing times		38:30	46:06	34:40	42:07

\*Guideline figures supplied by Alex Johns, X Zone race director

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THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 20 1995

WEEKEND MONEY 63

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# Yeltsin's tough talk on tax eases crisis

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday demonstrated his willingness to take tough action to deal with Russia's economic crisis by sacking the head of the state tax service and taking the first steps towards seizing the assets of corporate tax defaulters.

Aleksandr Pochinok became the second senior official to lose his job since the crisis in the Russian stock market forced the Government to triple interest rates to 150 per cent on Wednesday to protect the rouble. On Thursday, Mr Yeltsin dismissed Yuri Bespalov, chief executive of the state-owned oil company Rosneft, over the failure of an auction of 75 per cent of its shares which was to have provided the Government with \$2.1 billion (£1.3 billion) in revenue.

Mr Pochinok is being replaced by Boris Fyodorov, a financial expert who once worked at the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development and served as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister in the Government of

**A second official has been sacrificed to cure Russia's financial problems,**

**Robin Lodge writes from Moscow**



Fyodorov: new head of the Russian tax service

Viktor Chernomyrdin between 1992 and 1994. He faces a daunting task. Despite repeated government campaigns and the high profile of Russia's tax police, who carry out raids in flak jackets

and balaclavas and toting AK-47 automatic rifles, tax evasion has become deep-seated. The tax authorities have concentrated their efforts against small-scale businesses, whose contributions have had a negligible effect on the economy, while many of the big corporations have been left untouched.

The situation has been exacerbated by a vicious circle of inter-enterprise debt that has left many concerns unable to pay their taxes.

Yesterday Sergei Kiriyenko, the Prime Minister, was meeting senior tax officials and drawing up a list of about 20 companies identified as major tax-dodgers and starting procedures for seizing their assets. According to Interfax, the companies in question owe about \$800 million. The Gov-

ernment's response to the crisis appears to have paid off. The rouble gained slightly against the dollar yesterday for the second day running and share prices fell slightly.

The Government issued a statement saying it was confident that the measures it had initiated would be sufficient to deal with the crisis and announced plans to raise \$2.4 billion through further privatisation of state enterprises.

Mr Kiriyenko, who was appointed last month with the specific task of reviving the Russian economy, received a further boost yesterday when the International Monetary Fund welcomed his efforts and said it would recommend the release of the latest \$670 million instalment of its \$9.2 billion loan to Russia.

At the same time Mikhail Zadornov, the Finance Minister, dismissed reports that Russia was seeking additional support from the IMF or any other foreign creditors.

Markets stabilise, page 27  
IMF approval, page 30



Children at a Salvation Army soup kitchen in a Moscow rail terminal yesterday

## Mandela's man takes over suspect military

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's first black general took command of the defence forces yesterday during a spectacular parade marred by persistent suspicions about the loyalty of white officers to President Mandela's Government.

During the 17-gun salute that greeted his takeover of the 50,000-strong armed forces, General Siphwe Nyanda may have reflected on the words of Ronnie Kasrils, the Deputy Defence Minister, who spoke recently of a "third force" hoping to derail South Africa's young democracy.

Nine months ago a report from a team of British officers on a training mission criticised many of South Africa's military old guard for failing to come to terms with a transformed defence force.

The last commander, General George Meiring, took early retirement after giving credibility to an "intelligence report" that linked Michael Jackson, the singer, and General Nyanda in a coup plot.

## McVeigh likens Oklahoma bomb to raids on Iraq

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN A lengthy essay written from death row, Timothy McVeigh has described the 1995 Oklahoma bombing that killed 168 adults and children as morally equivalent to American military actions against foreign targets.

McVeigh, 24, the decorated Gulf War veteran convicted of planting a huge fertiliser bomb outside the Alfred Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, condemned US foreign policy as hypocritical in the article, published by *Media Bypass*, a magazine for right-wing militants.

"Whether you wish to admit it or not, when you approve, morally, of the bombing of foreign targets by the US military, you are approving of acts morally equivalent to the bombing in Oklahoma City," he wrote. "It seems ironic and hypocritical that an act as viciously condemned in Oklahoma is now a 'justified' response to a problem in a foreign land. The history of United States policy over the last century, when examined fully, tends to exemplify hypocrisy."

McVeigh planted his explosive in a rented ferry directly beneath a daycare centre on the second floor of the federal

building. The blast immediately killed 19 children.

In Oklahoma, he said, "family convenience" had explained the presence of the daycare centre between street level and the law enforcement agencies on upper floors. In the case of Iraq, however, such a centre in a government building was described by US officials as "a shield".

The Administration had continued its bombing raids against Iraqi targets in the knowledge that children were present, information he said had not existed in the Oklahoma City bombing. "When a US plane or cruise missile is used to bring destruction to a foreign people, this nation rewards the bombers with applause and praise," he said. "Unfortunately, the morality of killing is not so superficial. The truth is the use of a truck, a plane or a missile for the delivery of a weapon of mass destruction does not alter the nature of the act itself."

Richard Azar of the magazine said the handwritten essay had arrived unsolicited from the prison in Florence, Colorado, where McVeigh is on death row. Its authenticity was confirmed by mail with the prisoner.

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ASIA ARMS CRISIS

# West may disrupt missile race

## Michael Evans reports on an expensive duel of technologies between the subcontinent's rivals

INDIA and Pakistan are now expected to pursue an aggressive industrial programme to produce an arsenal of ballistic missiles for their newly created nuclear arsenals.

However, having failed to prevent either country from carrying out nuclear tests, the leading nuclear powers may now be in a position to disrupt this next step in the South Asia arms race.

Developing nuclear warheads may have been relatively cheap, but creating a production line for intermediate-range ballistic missiles will be crippling, particularly to Pakistan's economy.

The challenge for the three Western nuclear powers — the United States, Britain and France — will be to ensure that neither Russia, which has helped India in the past, nor China, which has provided material support for Pakistan, will play any role in the future that could accelerate the arms race in South Asia.

Unlike India, which has the capability to develop indigenous missiles, Pakistan has had to take a pragmatic approach by seeking help from abroad and building missiles on licence.

China has vehemently denied supplying Pakistan with ballistic missile systems. But after Chinese Mi-17 short-range missiles were shipped in crates to Pakistan, Washington effectively accused China of missile proliferation.

Beijing is not a signatory of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which is aimed at curbing ballistic missile proliferation, but after the dispute over the Mi-17 systems it declared that it would abide by the terms of the agreement.

However, it is clear that Pakistan has relied in the past on China for its nuclear technology and it is suspected that the Mi-17 were not the only complete ballistic missile systems to be imported clandestinely from the Chinese. North Korea has also supplied Paki-

stan with key components. India has been assisted by Russia in the past, although it denies any current co-operation, and has used Canadian-made reactors to produce plutonium for its nuclear bombs. However, it started developing its own domestic defence industry ten years before Pakistan and there is every reason to believe that it has the industrial capability to maintain a ballistic missile production line. Cost will be the only inhibitor.

If China is true to its word and is no longer breaching the Missile Technology Control Regime, Pakistan will find it difficult to match India's missile-production capability, unless it has continued links with North Korea, which has no allegiance to the MTCR guidelines.

Digby Waller, a defence economist at the London-

China has denied any hand in the Ghauri programme and the system is believed to be a derivative of the North Korean No Dong missile.

North Korea, however, has denied providing Pakistan with No Dong missiles. Earlier this month a senior diplomat at the North Korean Embassy in Islamabad said: "The reports that the test of the Ghauri missile was based on North Korean technology are totally baseless. Pakistan and North Korea have been enjoying very friendly ties for years... but we have not provided nuclear and missile technology to Pakistan."

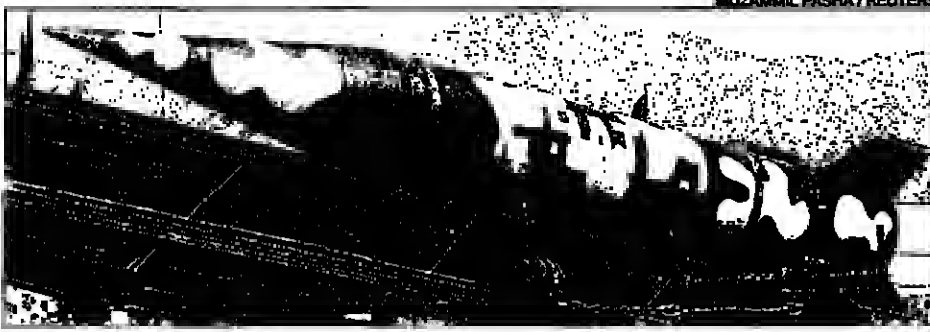
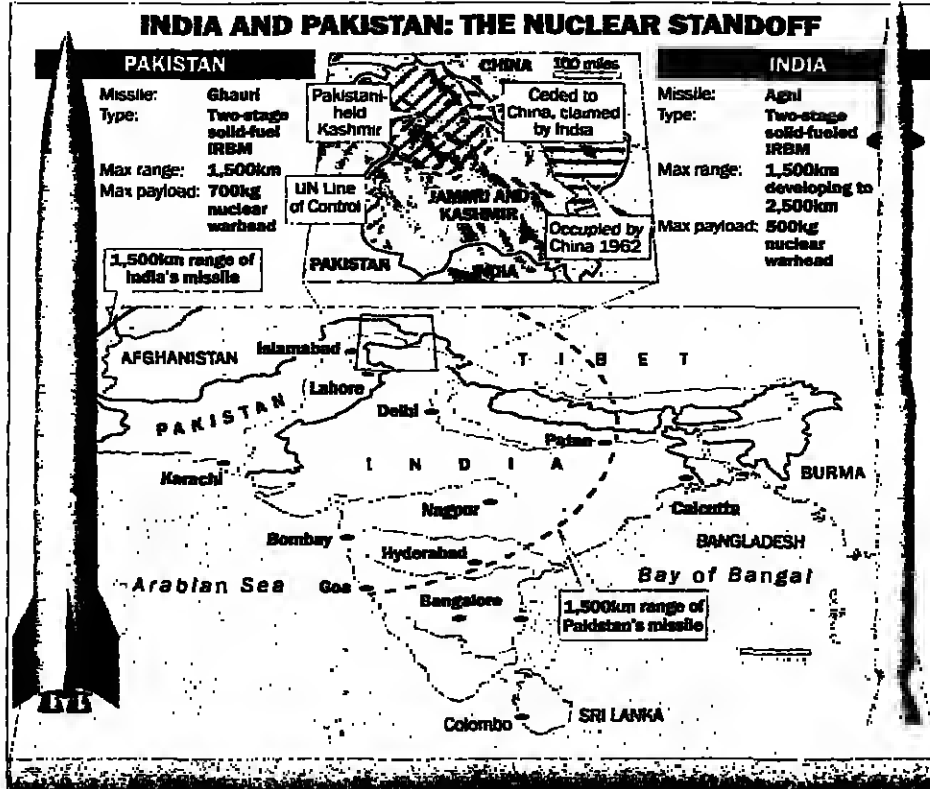
Nevertheless, Western intelligence services that in recent years have made counter-proliferation one of their priority areas will have to devote even more resources to monitoring the clandestine routes that clearly have been used in the past in the development of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme.

Both India and Pakistan already have well-developed short-range missile programmes. India has in service about 75 Prithvi missiles which have a range of 250 kilometres (156 miles), with conventional warheads. Pakistan has three short-range versions of the Haaf missile with ranges of between 100 kilometres (62 miles) and 800 kilometres (496 miles). There are 18 Haafs in service.

India is now in a position to continue its ballistic missile programme, without outside help. Russia is signed up to the MTCR and should not be in a position to provide further assistance.

However, it is impossible to be sure whether some elements of the Russian nuclear missile industry are not secretly assisting the Indians, without the knowledge of President Yeltsin. Mr Waller said: "President Yeltsin can say his hands are clean, but there is no real control over the nuclear industry."

The Agni missile, a mobile



A Haaf medium-range missile on display in Islamabad before a military parade

two-stage solid-fuel system which was flight-tested three times between 1989 and 1994, was shelved after intense international pressure. However, after the Pakistanis launched their Ghauri missile on April 6, the Indians reinstated the Agni programme as a priority. All the components were in place.

The Agni has been developed by India's state-owned Defence Research and Development Organisation and produced by Bharat Dynamics, both at Hyderabad.

Like the Ghauri, the Agni has a range of about 1,500 kilometres (937 miles), although the Indians are now extending the range to 2,500 kilometres (1,562 miles).

The three flight tests were successful, which means that the Indians will not need to carry out further technology tests in order to extend the range to 2,500 kilometres. However, the missile will have to be modified and then flight-tested to prove that it can fly over a longer range. The modified version is called the Surya missile.

The Ghauri, first fired from a mobile launcher, was flight-tested to a distance of just over 680 miles and the test was carried out entirely overland. It was admitted at the time by Dr Abdul Qader Khan, Pakistan's top missile and nuclear scientist, that he had "consulted abroad" for the components for the guidance system.

The Ghauri, also a solid-fuel system, has been developed at the Pakistan aeronautical complex at Kamra, about 60 miles northwest of Islamabad, and produced by Pakistani ordnance factories. There is already a follow-on system to the Ghauri under development called the Ghaznavi which is reported to have a range of 2,000 kilometres (1,240 miles).

After the flight test of the Ghauri in April, which lasted nine minutes and 58 seconds, it was claimed to have been "100 per cent" successful. It was launched from an army firing range. One report said that the total weight of the missile was 16 tonnes with a fuel load of 14 tonnes.

WORLD IN BRIEF

## Students seek to topple Mugabe

Harare: Zimbabwe riot police fired teargas and clubbed students yesterday to break up a protest against President Mugabe (Chris Chinaka writes). The students, who began demonstrating on Thursday, were demanding higher grants and an end to alleged corruption in the 18-year Government, saying they could drive the President, 74, out of power in the same way that a student-led campaign had forced Indonesia's President Suharto to resign this month. Witnesses said Harare police charged into 2,000 college students, firing teargas, as they marched into the capital's main shopping mall from parliament. Bystanders and traders were also beaten by the police batons.

## Klansman held for murder

Washington: Sam Bowers, right, a former Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard who was tried twice in the 1960s over a firebombing that killed a black civil rights activist, has been arrested in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on charges that he masterminded the crime (Tom Rhodes writes). Mr Bowers, 73, was charged with murder and arson over the death of Vernon Dahmer in 1966.



## Pledge on Briton's killers

Bangkok: The Khmer Rouge killers of Christopher Howes, the British mine clearance expert, will be rooted out and brought to justice, Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office Minister, said here after receiving assurances from Hun Sen, the Cambodian Prime Minister (Andrew Drummond writes). Howes, from Bristol, was killed in Angkor Veng two days after his capture in March 1996.

## Estrada victory ratified

Manila: Joseph Estrada, a college dropout and former film star, was proclaimed by Congress as the thirteenth President of the Philippines (Abby Tan writes). He takes over from President Ramos on June 30. José de Venecia, the House Speaker and government candidate, conceded defeat to Mr Estrada, who won 39.9 per cent of the vote compared with Mr de Venecia's 15.9 per cent.

## Oldest zoo elephant dies

The world's oldest African elephant in captivity was announced dead yesterday at Basle Zoo in Switzerland (Helen Rumbelow writes). Keepers said Beira, 49, had been struck down by grief over the death of her mate of 30 years, Kenny. He died last week with breathing problems. Local firemen repeatedly tried to get Beira back on her feet, but zoo officials yesterday decided to put her down.

## Drugs case turns to ashes

San Antonio: Michael Horne insisted the powdery substance police found in a plastic bag in his vehicle was the ashes of his cremated grandmother, but he was kept in jail for a month, unable to afford bail, after tests showed it was methamphetamine, an illegal drug. He lost his job, his vehicle, his home and his military reserve status. Further tests proved him right. He is suing for damages. (AP)

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# Emperor's state visit 'not spoilt by demonstrations'

BY ALAN HAMILTON

EMPEROR Akihito of Japan ended his state visit to Britain yesterday with a series of meetings with botanists and geologists, and an insistence by his staff that the visit had not been spoiled by prisoner of war demonstrations.

As the Emperor visited the Linnean Society, a botanical institution, and later the research wing of London Zoo, and Empress Michiko toured the headquarters of the British Red Cross, both appeared relaxed and at ease, in contrast to the first day when they were met by a chorus of boing and whistling from war veterans in The Mall.

The Japanese even found a positive side to the demonstrations. Thanks to advanced publicity for the protests, the Emperor was greeted by an estimated crowd of 25,000 in The Mall, the largest public turnout for any state visit since Nelson Mandela.

Kazuo Chiba, the Emperor's spokesman, said last night: "The visit has had a very high profile, and that must be good."

## KEEN NATURALIST SPENDS DAY DOWN ON FARM

The Emperor will tour a farm in Oxfordshire today to see at first hand how commercial agriculture can be combined with wildlife conservation (Michael Hornsby writes). The private engagement was requested by the Emperor, a keen naturalist who plants and harvests rice every year in a paddy field in the grounds of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

Details of the excursion have been kept secret to try to avoid pursuit by angry veterans of Japanese prisoner-of-war camps who

have dogged the Emperor's footsteps during much of the public part of his visit to Britain. The Emperor will go around Wells Farm, a 163-acre smallholding growing wheat, barley and oilseed rape and supporting a small flock of sheep, near Little Milton, southeast of Oxford.

Martin Spray, director of the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Nature Trust, which owns the farm, will act as a guide, with Sir Ghillelan Prance, the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

We have even seen people on British television this week debating the finer points of Japanese constitutional law.

But the Japanese party was clearly surprised and disconcerted at the fact that the protests were larger, louder and more orchestrated than when Emperor Hirohito visited London only 26 years after the end of the war. They were also taken aback by the noise because the labour camp survivors had announced that they planned a silent protest.

But Mr Chiba said the Japanese view was that the protests had been "dignified and orderly", with the exception of a flag-burning incident. The highlights for the Imperial couple had been the two state banquets, and their visit to Cardiff.

Buckingham Palace also regarded the visit as a success. The problems over the demonstrations and the controversy over the award of the Garter were no worse than had been expected, but officials were annoyed that some newspapers, during the visit to Cardiff, had concentrated on a group of 30 veterans demon-

strating at the castle gates. "The Japanese were puzzled that the demonstrations were greater than in 1971, and slightly alarmed that they were so noisy," a senior palace source said. "But the veterans are better organised now, are older so more inclined to look back, and there has been a cultural change in the country; we are more litigious, and more insistent on apologies."

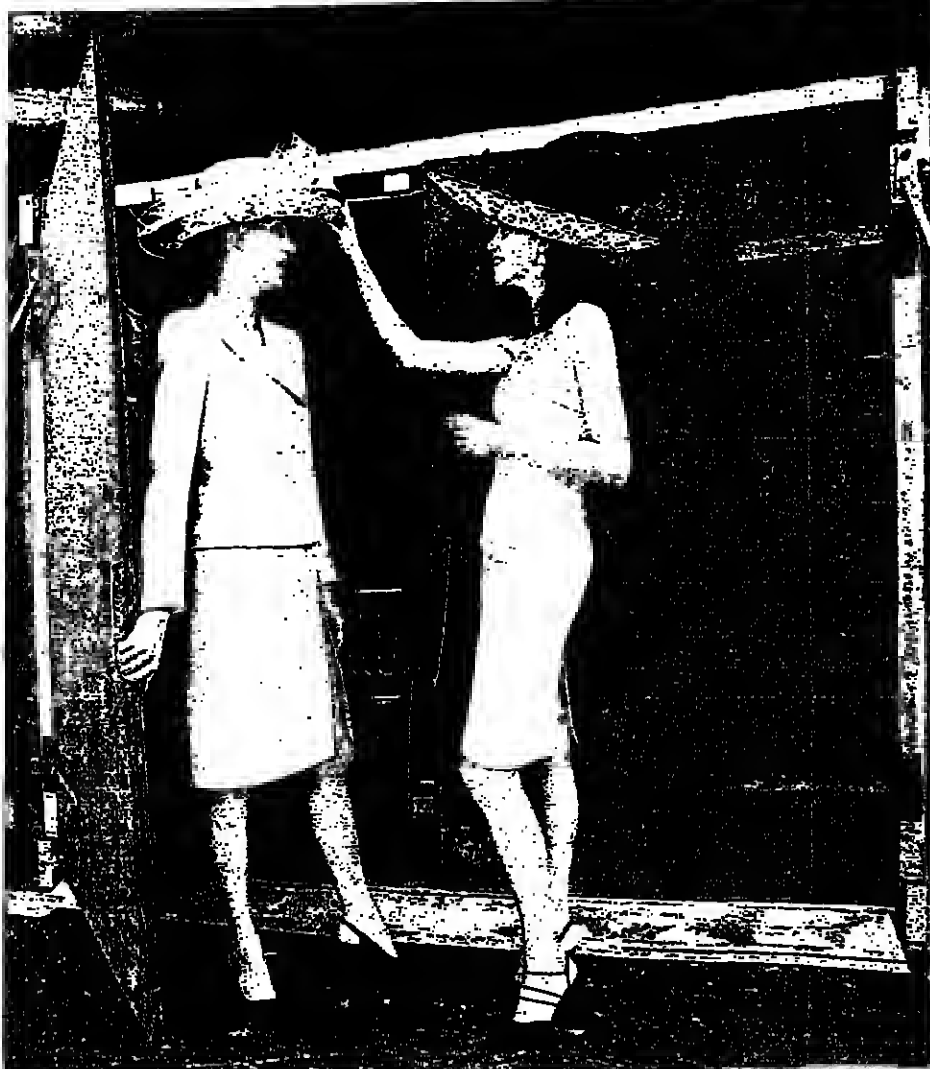
That the Emperor ended his visit on a relaxed note was shown as he emerged from London Zoo after touring its aquarium to enhance his own

considerable knowledge of marine biology. For the first time on his visit, he performed a brief impromptu public walkabout, shaking the hands of visitors and their children.

But the prisoners of war issue still reverberated yesterday, with a split emerging in the veterans' ranks. John Nunnely, a veteran of the Burma campaign who was wounded but not taken prisoner, strongly criticised the militant veterans, calling their protests "abominable" and "outrageous". Mr Nunnely is a member of the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group which promotes reconciliation and visits to the Far East.

Mr Nunnely was the only Burma campaign veteran at Tuesday night's state banquet for the Imperial couple at Buckingham Palace. Arthur Titherington, chairman of the Japan Labour Camp Survivors' Association and the prime mover behind the protests, has described Mr Nunnely's group as "freeloaders".

Letters, page 23



Models in Catherine Walker dresses bring together two of the passions of Diana, Princess of Wales — clothes and charities — at Oswestry in Shropshire last night.

## Girl of 17 committed suicide on the M4

By Stewart Tandler

A TEENAGER who feared that she was about to lose her boyfriend killed herself by stepping in front of traffic on the M4.

Several drivers swerved to avoid Roshanee Bassi, 17, before she was run over by a coach. Yesterday a coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.

The inquest, in Swindon, was told that three weeks before her death in October she had suddenly walked out of her home. The day before she died she had to be dragged from traffic.

Her father, Jaginder Bassi, chairman of the Racial Equality Council in Swindon, described Roshanee as a loving and friendly girl but said she had had an intense relationship with her white 16-year-old boyfriend.

In a statement the boyfriend said that she had used emotional blackmail to keep them together. "She told me that she had left home for me and that if we broke up she would try to kill herself."

The coach driver, Mark Cannings, told the inquest: "I saw something in the middle lane. It was directly in front of me. I could not do anything because I had a coach full of passengers."

## Army padre cleared of harassing soldier

By Adam Fresco

AN ARMY chaplain was cleared yesterday of harassing a soldier and his wife, but still faces four charges of indecent assault against another soldier's wife.

Captain Richard Landall, 41, was acquitted on two counts of harassment after the court martial panel heard that Fusilier Jason Brazier, the soldier at the centre of the allegations, told a senior officer: "My wife and I weren't harassed."

The evidence that cleared the padre came from Fusilier Brazier's adjutant, Captain Andrew Rawling. Captain Rawling said that Fusilier Brazier had approached him early this week after giving evidence and told him that Captain Landall was a "lovely man".

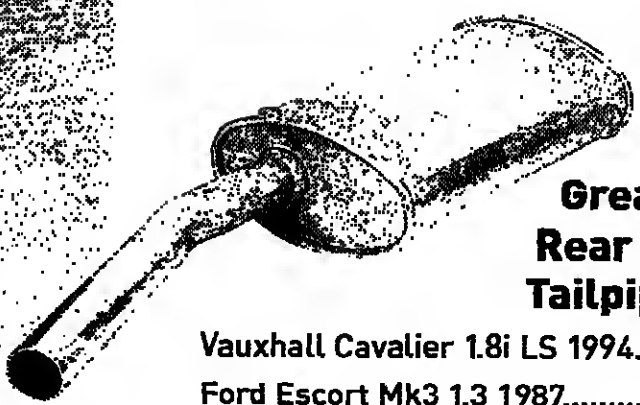
Captain Rawling said: "He stated he was not harassed by the padre. He said the padre was a lovely man and both he and his wife considered the padre to be a lovely man. He used those words."

But Captain Rawling told the hearing that the soldier said his wife "did not consider that behaviour to be the behaviour of a padre".

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

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# Spice Girls split may be gingered-up stunt

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

IT IS a mystery worthy of that other famous five. Did Posh, Sporty, Scary, Baby and Ginger — especially Ginger — go mad in Finland?

The hot rumours, counter rumours, speculation and exclusive (and not so exclusive) claims are that the Spice Girls have split. Or is it all just a publicity stunt?

If it is a publicity stunt it is a rum one. The facts are these: the five left Helsinki on Wednesday morning to fly back to England. But only four of them appeared on the evening's midweek lottery show. And again the five had become four when they took the stage in Oslo on Thursday. Last night the quartet performed the last date of their European tour before a week's break ahead of a 40-date American tour.

The missing link is Ginger, also known as Geri Halliwell, the brassy, busy flame-haired singer regarded as the unofficial leader of the group that has had six No 1 hits and was the first British group to reach



Geri Halliwell: the unofficial leader of the gang

No 1 in the United States with its first album. Has she walked out? And if so, does that mean the end of the Spice Girls?

Last night the band's publicists seemed to have little idea about what was going on and denied one report that she would be joining the band for their trip to America.

The first statements said she had a stomach bug. But yesterday the publicists

claimed they were in the dark. The comment of Scary Spice (Mel Brown) to a news crew — "I think the Spice Girls will always remain friends" — hardly settled the matter.

"I know nothing. I don't know where Geri is. I know she was ill," a spokeswoman said, before adding, helpfully: "I know that tonight is the last night of the European tour. And I know that the video of *Spice World: the Movie* has

sold 220,000 copies since it went on sale this week." If the group is such a successful commodity, such ignorance about their togetherness seems a little careless.

Part of the problem is that since they sacked Simon Fuller, their manager, last November, the Spice Girls have controlled their own affairs. "The Spice Girls manage themselves. They literally do, it's up to them," the spokeswoman said.

The girls were reported to have been arguing on the way back from Helsinki and Halliwell then stormed off to her home in Hertfordshire. One reason for the falling out might have been a meeting Halliwell was said to have had with fellow redhead Chris Evans about possible television projects. With millions in the bank, it has been suggested, she might have decided that now was the time to go it alone.

Certainly, all has not been sweetness in Spice World of late. After they sacked Mr Fuller, they endured an embarrassing episode in Barcelona when they were booted off the stage. But the welter of reports of their imminent demise proved unfounded. Indeed they turned the sacking into massive publicity about the potency of their brand of "girl power". They beat the Teletubbies to top the Christmas charts and launched a triumphant European tour.



Still on song: Mel Brown, Emma Bunton, Victoria Adams and Mel Chisholm

Halliwell, who was a cleaner, a topless model and a gameshow hostess on Turkish television before she joined the group, appeared to

be the brashest, toughest Spice Girl, confident and in control. At press conferences she led the way and would terminate proceedings when she believed the time was right.

So if she has been thinking of quitting, the critical question is whether the others can survive without her. In truth, there is no need to believe that they can't if they want to. There is plenty of willfulness among the rest of the group and Victoria Adams, aka Posh Spice, recently admitted

that she was the driving force behind the sacking of Mr Fuller, not Halliwell as was popularly believed.

The history of pop is littered with burnt-out bands who split after blazing brightly and briefly. But then for every early demise one can think of a gang of dinosaurs who simply replace those who fall by the wayside. Indeed, in one of the band's most recent interviews, Halliwell said that she thought the band would go on for ever, "like the Rolling Stones".



## Portillo takes TV odyssey to Tory abyss

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL PORTILLO has travelled to one of the most notorious council estates in Britain as part of his crusade to try to regenerate the Conservative Party's intellectual appeal.

The visit forms part of *In Search of Conservatism*, a three-part Channel 4 documentary that will coincide with the Tory party conference in Bournemouth. The series, made by Blakeway Productions, will confirm his status as the lost leader of the Tory Right just as Mr Hague is attempting to rally the Tory faithful.

The televised odyssey took Mr Portillo, who has already urged the Tories to be more tolerant, into the heart of the Gipton housing estate in Leeds, which is regularly headlined "The Worst in Britain". Among those he met were single mothers who were once the *bête noire* of the Tory Right.

The first programme, *Facing the Abyss*, aims to come to terms with the reasons why the Tories suffered such a

catastrophic defeat at the general election. Mr Portillo will also bare his own feelings at the humiliation of losing his Enfield Southgate seat.

Friends said Mr Portillo's visit to Leeds was not part of a campaign to reinvent himself but to discover how the Conservatives lost the trust of their working-class supporters and to try to find solutions.

The second programme will focus on the need for a "big idea" to revive the Tories' appeal. The third, and potentially most explosive programme, will concentrate on the vexed issue of Europe. It will face up to the schism in the Tory party over the single currency. It will argue that Mr Hague should build on his recent Fontainebleau speech and demonstrate an increasingly headline approach to relations with Brussels.

Guests on the programmes include Mr Hague, Chris Patten, Lord Tebbit, Kenneth Clarke and Kelvin MacKenzie, former Editor of *The Sun*, which deserted the Tories at the election. Peter Mandelson, an architect of new Labour, will also put in an appearance.

Work will continue on the series through the summer. Hugh Bygon-Webb, the producer, said: "It will be part fly-on-the-wall following Michael Portillo around the country in his quest for Conservatism. But it will conclude with a lot of interviews and Michael's own thoughts on why and where they went wrong and how they move forward."

It is nothing to do with Michael Portillo's political rehabilitation. It is part of a genuine attempt to push the debate on policy forward.



Portillo: talks to single mothers on Leeds estate

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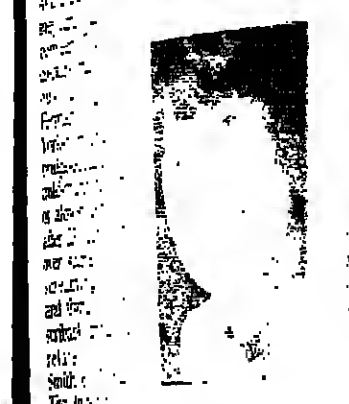
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Alex Ferguson

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VALERIE GROVE MEETS THE MEN BEHIND THE FILM CUTS

What the censors saw

Potentially, The Censor's Cuts, certificate 18, is the hottest show in town. Yet only 15 people turned up to see it in Belfast, and 35 in Glasgow. When the roadshow rolled into Birmingham on Wednesday, it drew the largest audience yet: 150 citizens. It remains to be seen how many will turn out for it in London next week. The show is on the road because James Ferman, the outgoing director of the British Board of Film Classification, and Andreas Whitam Smith, the board's new chairman, decided to show Joe Public how and why films are graded. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has said he wants the board to be more accountable and the people to have a voice. The audience in Birmingham were predictably varied: Mary Whitehouse types who have not ventured into a cinema for years; sex video retailers protesting that their customers have to go to Amsterdam to get the hard stuff they cannot get here; and all shades of how to snort coke or shoot heroin. "We try to show as little as possible of the needle going into the skin, because we know many addicts are fascinated by seeing the drug moving along the vein, mixing with blood. A video," Ferman said, "is the best teaching medium ever invented." It is a slow-motion instructional manual for the criminal young, giving detailed techniques for scaling cars, breaking into buildings, stripping guns. American films blithely show children being taught martial arts with knives and how to deliver a lethal blow to the front of the neck. Ferman showed a montage of carnage with Bruce Willis, Bruce Lee and Sylvester Stallone. "Most young people don't copy violent activities but those who do include the most violent young people in Britain," he said. "What do we do when the most popular film stars in the world are also the most brutal?" The fact that children love something doesn't mean they ought to be allowed to watch it, a commonsense woman said. "Are you legalising violence?" an Asian man asked, to which Ferman replied equably: "You can't take all violence out of drama." A magistrate spoke up: "Many offenders admit they copy the idea of breaking into cars from television. Our jails are the most overcrowded in Europe. Britain pays a heavy price for some of the stuff coming across the ocean. Please take a robust stance, don't pander to the money men." Ferman disclosed that the money men are always striking deals with the board over cuts, taking out a few grain seconds in order to get a 15 rating. The American opening scene of Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves - amputation of a hand, loud screams - was cut for the sake of a PG rating, and it became the year's most popular film in Britain. Eraser flopped in the cinema with an 18 rating, so "Warner Bros cut it themselves, we gave them a 15 and it was the most popular video ever. The company were delighted." Hollywood does not give a damn about social responsibility: Ferman showed us a scene from a new American children's movie, Rocket Man Boy, in which a boy climbs into a washing machine for a spin. Ferman cut it, but the Americans thought it was fine. And while the British cut violence, the Americans cut sex. A man from the Mrs Whitehouse brigade challenged Whitam Smith about Lolita. "The book is on school reading lists," he replied. "The only question was, did the film make it as plain as the book does that the relationship is destructive, evil and a social taboo? His board decided that it did. After violence and drugs it was a relief, Ferman said, to turn to sex. "Where people are at least being nice to each other." We saw Kylie Minogue's bra removed in The Delinquents. We lingered over Diana Quick's nipples in Brideshead Revisited ("very little physical detail," Ferman said approvingly, "but a lot of tenderness") and watched Richard Gere and Debra Winger rolling about. Finally, Ferman gave us one uncut version of a sex scene (Highlander 3) which, when cut, became a 15. "And that's the only 18 sex scene I'm going to show you," he said. "But here is a montage which some of you may find painful, so close your eyes or turn away." This followed Jodie Foster's rape in The Accused and some loathsome sexual violence, including a Japanese cartoon: squeaky-voiced Barbie doll pinioned to a swastika by gloating attackers. "Oh! don't let me lose my panties!" Ferman said: "It is often difficult to remember that a film is for entertainment." The public is an impossible constituency, with no consensus in the freedom versus responsibility debate. And film critics will never love the BBFC. As Ferman said, his successor will need a flak jacket. Whitam Smith regards his weekly visits to the Soho Square viewing room as "like going to the dentist." Classifying films is "the hardest decision-making I've had to do in my life. Running a newspaper does not compare. I'm overawed that we have to say, on behalf of the entire nation, 'Thou shalt not watch this.'" The next show, free and open to all, is on Tuesday at the Royal Commonwealth Institute at 7pm.



An editing suite at the board of classification, where cuts to films and videos deemed necessary by the censors are made

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Bomb plot comes within an atom of sense

THEATRE Copenhagen Cottesloe

What is a "critical mass"? What's meant by "going critical"? As Michael Frayn's new piece makes evident, both are key concepts if you are discussing the Bomb. A critical mass is also a cluster of reviewers trying to twig the meaning of cyclotrons, mesons, photons, complimentary and the other matters invoked in Copenhagen, and going critical is the desperate realisation on their part that despite the explanations in both play and programme, they don't quite do so. No doubt of it, Copenhagen is a challenge to those of us whose physics stop short of changing light bulbs, but it also brims with intellectual excitement. I found it hard going at times, but exhilarating at others. How often does the theatre deal with science at all, let alone with the life-or-death matters raised by the meeting of the German physicist Werner Heisenberg, then engaged on nuclear research for Speer, and Niels Bohr, his Danish mentor, in the occupied Copenhagen of 1941? This encounter actually occurred, though nobody knows what was said or why it caused a breach between men who were like father and son. Frayn's conceit is to set the play in a frosty Purgatory, where the meeting can be imaginatively re-enacted and its prehistory, aftermath and implications debated. It doesn't sound too dramatic, and, with some spectators sitting in institutional tiers at the back of the theatre, a lecture-hall feel is not always avoided. Yet Michael Blakemore's direction bangs energetically along, and Matthew Marsh's earnest Heisenberg, David Burke's genial Bohr and Sara Kestelman's spiky, cynical Mme Bohr do plenty to fill a small, spare stage with human confusion, worry and pain. At the play's centre there is, after all, a conundrum that penetrates to these people's viscera. Why did Heisenberg seek the meeting and, if Frayn is to be believed, make the hitherto sceptical Bohr aware that fission could lead to the A-bomb? To impress him, get him to warn the Allies, recruit him, or what? Explanation after explanation surfaces, leaving Heisenberg looking variously like an opportunist, an incompetent, and a patriotic German who nevertheless decided to sabotage his own programme, keep the Bomb from Hitler and maybe save the planet. Frayn's own belief seems to be that the inventor of uncertainty theory is himself like a particle in quantum physics: here, there, everywhere, nowhere, and not to be defined by anyone, including himself. It is the proper conclusion both for a dramatist whose long-time theme has been the complexity and inscrutability of the species - and for a bold, meaty play. BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

OPERA & BALLET: COLLEGE 011 622 8300 (PHEASANT ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA) Tue 8.30 Mon 7.30. THEATRES: ADELPHI: cc 24hrs (11.15) 344 0025. TELL FOR A TERRY M.A.S. WINNER OUTSTANDING MUSICAL. CHELSEA: THE MUSICAL. LITE: CLARE PETERS. ALBERT 388 1782/4444. THE PETER HALL COMPANY. THEATRES: THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY. 0171 680 6222. 0171 481 9313.

THEATRES: APOLLO LABRATS: DOCTOR DOLITTLE. PHILIP SCHIFFELD. WORLD PREMIERE 14 JULY. APOLLO VICTORIA: STARLIGHT EXPRESS. WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND. DOMINAR WAREHOUSE 388 1728. 3 BY HAROLD PINTER. THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged).

THEATRES: DOMINAR WAREHOUSE 388 1728. 3 BY HAROLD PINTER. THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged). THE UNEXPECTED MAN. THE WOMAN IN BLACK. FORTUNE BOO & CO. THE UNEXPECTED MAN. THE WOMAN IN BLACK. FORTUNE BOO & CO.

THEATRES: NATIONAL THEATRE. THE UNEXPECTED MAN. THE WOMAN IN BLACK. FORTUNE BOO & CO. THE UNEXPECTED MAN. THE WOMAN IN BLACK. FORTUNE BOO & CO.

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# Patriotism without prejudice

The English need a healthy pride in their identity, says Ann Leslie

In my local inner-city market I asked a group of white teenagers loitering outside the "office" whether they felt English or British? "English, of course. I'm proud to be English!" replied one youth, his ears and nostrils pierced with large amounts of ironmongery. "I'm not British. I'm English!" Why? "Dunno, really. Just the way I am." But one of his mates butted in with: "English, British, what's the difference? I'm proud of being English, cos it's the same thing, innit?"

Er, try saying that in Galashiels, mate. Try saying it in the Welsh-speaking parts of Wales, or in republican areas of Belfast.

But what does being English mean? Most people today would echo the market youth: "Dunno really..." The English have tended to use the terms English and British synonymously. We were the boss nation, the dominant culture, and the Celtic fringes were merely colourful add-ons to the prevailing English, sorry, British way of life.

These fringes had charming accents and were good at things like making porridge, booze and male voice choirs, but Celtic nationalism itself — a sense of belonging to a separate "race" — was regarded as somewhat childish. On a par with all those tedious Yorkshiremen who say, "I'm a Yorkshireman and proud of it!", Celtic nationalism was regarded as the sort of bombast you get from people with a rather deserved inferiority complex.

Once, to be English was to win the lottery of life

We felt (in so far as we thought about it at all, which was scarcely ever) that to be born English was to have won the first prize in the lottery of life. In fact, we were so convinced that ours was the dominant culture that we scarcely bothered to talk of "Englishness" itself.

But things have changed. The English have woken up to the fact that the Scots and the Welsh increasingly call themselves "nations", not regions, as we have always called them. Well, if Scotland is a nation, and Wales is a nation and Ireland is a nation, what is England? The English, having been complacently boss nation for so long — first over all the other Britons, and secondly over much of the world — do not know what they are any more.

Does this matter? I fear it does, especially in an increasingly globalised world. Globalisation does not lead to an ironing-out of national characteristics: it leads to a stronger desire than ever to huddle together for safety. If that instinct is denied or repressed, it will reappear — not as a healthy pride in one's national and cultural identity — but as something poisonous, xenophobic, maligning and aggressive. There is a salutory example. No matter how hard

Tito tried to create a "Yugoslav" identity out of that country's disparate Slav parts, Yugoslavia fell apart soon after his death in an orgy of ethnic hatred and revenge.

A sense of national identity, a knowledge of who you are and where you come from, seems to be essential for the psychic health of any society. Just as adopted children, however happy with their adoptive parents, long to know about their roots, people who have no pride in their collective past will not be able to deal with the present or the future with unaggressive self-confidence. Lacking a sense of what being English now consists of, the former boss nation is far more likely to express its sense of loss through hatred of others.

That is why I fear the rise of English nationalism. If the English begin to feel hard done by — why, for example, are the Scots getting much higher subsidies from the State than the English? Why are ethnic minorities allowed to criticise the English but if we reply in kind we're being racist? — their sense of grievance may turn out to be very dangerous.

To my mind, the only way to avoid this danger is to help the English — especially the young English — like the tattooed and ear-ringed youths in my market — to appreciate that one can be proud of English history, culture and inventiveness without being arrogant or xenophobic. Multicultural education must not be used as an excuse to decry everything English in order to build up the self-esteem of incomers, or to assuage a sense of post-imperial guilt.

We English should be proud of ourselves for our real achievements, past and present. This is not a recipe for rampant chauvinism. It is quite the opposite. It is a prophylactic against it.

I am deeply depressing to learn from a recent *Sunday Times* survey that a group of teenagers who declared themselves proud to be English could not think of any English achievement other than *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders* and the national football team. Before it is too late for our multicultural inner cities, we must give English youth something valid to be proud of, to focus its longing for a sense of national identity.

English pride must not be allowed to become the sole province of a tattooed, snarling "Gotha" culture. But if liberal opinion continues to deride English achievements, and constantly demands *mea culpa* for our past, then a dominant "Gotha" culture is what we will get, at huge cost to us all.

This is an edited extract from an essay published in the new book series *Mindfield*, Camden Press.



# Monumental mistake

**Diana's fame was only accidental. If we commemorate her in haste, we will repent at leisure, argues Simon Jenkins**

When Tony Blair asked Gordon Brown to chair the Princess Diana memorial committee, I am sure the image of a poisoned chalice from the glittering funeral, the Prime Minister thought his friend deserved a touch of unction. The four-faced scion of Great George Street needed a peg on which to hang loose. Give him the shrine of England's Rose. It would mean just a couple of meetings and a photo-call with the luvvies, a light dusting of cool.

How did Mr Brown fall for this one? The Committee on the Diana Memorial was an argument waiting to happen. The smart money says Mr Blair knew exactly what he was about, but surely Mr Brown is no fool. He now finds himself hunkered down in full battledress while artillery roars overhead between the Spencers, the residents of Kensington & Chelsea, the Diana groupies and the parks and gardens lobby. If I were Mr Brown, I would go back to something easy, like cutting the Brigade of Guards or abolishing child benefit.

The decision not to make a decision on a Diana memorial last autumn was wise. London is littered with statues to those who enjoyed greater fame when they died than thereafter. Why is the Duke of Cambridge in Whitehall, Baron Clyde in Waterloo Place, Simon Bolivar in Belgrave Square and Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake, "skilled in boxing and cricket", in Tavistock Square? Gordon of Khartoum and Edward Jenner, inventor of vaccine, were splendidly portrayed in Trafalgar Square after their deaths. They were then ignominiously removed elsewhere as not famous enough. Instead we have Generals Havelock and Napier. And who remembers Guy the Gorilla, so famous (in 1978) as to have a memorial at Crystal Palace? Those who commemorate in haste must repent at leisure.

On Diana's death last year, the columns of this and other newspapers were filled with suggestions more fitting to a banana republic. Heathrow should be renamed after her. The Dome should be the Diana Dome. The M25 should be "Dianaway". There should be a Diana Prom, Diana pizzas, the Diana Mall, HMS Diana, the Diana "affordable accommodation for the homeless". Streets should be renamed the "Avenue of the 31st of

August". An annual Bank Holiday should be declared (are there any days left?). The simultaneous death of Mother Teresa was met by her followers with more dignity. Faced with demands for a "fast-track canonisation", the Vatican told people simply to wait. "These things should take years," said a spokesman. "Sainthood is something that grows over time." Teresa is still waiting, and may wait for ever. Time is a harsh historian. As the Red Queen remarked, it is a poor sort of memory that only works backwards.

The most obvious memorial is of sculpture, most austere of all the arts. One of the loveliest monuments in London is also to a royal lady who patronised charity, was widely loved, much-grieved and abused by circumstance. She was Queen Alexandra, Princess of Wales and short-lived Queen to Edward VII. After enduring much, both in health and from her husband, this gentle woman died in 1925. Her monument, by Alfred Gilbert, is on the wall of Marlborough House opposite St James's Palace. It depicts Faith, Hope and Love embracing a child in a glorious swirl of drapery and is the best Art Nouveau sculpture in London.

So lacking is our confidence in the plastic arts that we dare not even risk a Diana statue. As visitors to next week's Royal Academy Summer Show will notice, sculpture may shock but it has lost the will to express deeper emotion. Imagine a "Diana" by Antony Gormley or Damien Hirst. So we turn in despair to Mother Nature. Mr Brown's committee is playing safe and proposing a memorial garden.

But not so fast. The plan is to build a 16-acre formal parterre over the park south of Kensington Palace, where the "Cellophane meadow" appeared last September. This would be filled with herbs, ponds, and small statues. A fountain would rise above the Round Pond. To the north the "Wilderness" laid out by William and Mary in the 1660s would be recreated as a less formal space. This would cost £10 million, equivalent to a quarter of the (separate) Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

A detail from Sir Alfred Gilbert's memorial to Queen Alexandra

space from the park. As for the fountain, it will sink boats in the Round Pond and soak strolling nannies. And the last thing residents want is another magnet to draw tourists to their neighbourhood.

If I were Kensington, I would grab the money and run. After a ferocious residents meeting last week, the local MP, Alan Clark, warned his constituents not to behave like suburban Nimbys. Those who inhabit Central London live in a world capital not a village. They must accept crowds. But they are right about the 16 acres south of the palace. This fine sweep of landscape needs more grass, not less. There should be no garden here. A real monument to Diana's memory would be to tear down the obtrusive and vulgar Royal Garden Hotel, but such a boon is apparently beyond any power known to politics. The proposal to restore the old Wilderness north towards Bayswater Road is excellent. The area is a mess, more a municipal park, with scruffy coaches, playgrounds and ugly railings. A new "secret" garden, where Diana could be commemorated as both huntress and hunted, would be a tranquil aside from the London roar, and draw tourists away from central Kensington.

Memorials should be appropriate to the dignity of a city, as well as of those they commemorate. Diana's fame, like her death, was accidental, that of a wealthy girl briefly married to a Prince and torn from life soon afterwards. Such accidental fame tends to wither quickly. As Conrad wrote, "in the plucking the fruits of memory, we risk spoiling the bloom". It is hard to see what physical monument can quite capture the magic of her name, especially when those charged with guarding it are selling it to margarine companies.

Diana, Princess of Wales, is remembered chiefly by those to whom she offered comfort in adversity, often comfort through the example of adversity of her own. She was an equivocal role-model, but undeniably a potent one. Perhaps Mr Brown could fall back on Scots theology, and have no truck with man-made icons. He should honour his remit from the Prime Minister by giving the £10 million to charity, and asking those who wish to remember Diana to do just that, to remember her. She was not a shrub but a person.

# Is there anybody out there?

Research depends on the quest for life, says Martin Rees

Space research is so expensive that its funding is bound to be precarious unless it fires broad public enthusiasm. That is why American space science programmes astutely focus on a theme of "origins". Astronomers have long suspected that other stars, like our Sun, are orbited by reënones of planets. But the first clinching evidence came only in 1995. Swiss scientists, using modest-sized telescopes on the ground detected very slight wobbles in a star's position, induced by an orbiting planet. Yesterday's coverage of follow-up research by Hubble testifies to our fascination as to whether we are "alone".

The only planets so far detected are big ones. It will be a hundred times harder directly to detect planets like Earth. Suppose an astronomer 40 light years away had detected Earth, it would be, in Carl Sagan's phrase, a "pale blue dot", seeming very close to a star (our Sun) that outshines it by many millions. Analysis of its light would reveal an oxygen-rich atmosphere. The shade of blue would differ slightly depending on whether the Pacific Ocean or the Eurasian land mass was facing us. Distant astronomers could, therefore, infer that the Earth was spinning and learn the length of its day, and even infer something of its topography and climate.

Yet even if we did discover another planet with a propitious environment, how likely is it to harbour life? A clue — tantalising and tentative, but embarrassingly hyped up by NASA's publicity machine — emerged in 1996 when traces of seemingly organic material were found in a meteorite believed to have been knocked off Mars. But primitive life may not always develop as it did on Earth. And, though the odds may be stacked against it, even if extraterrestrial intelligences exist, they may be leading contemplative lives and doing nothing to reveal themselves to us. Absence of evidence would not be evidence of absence. They could be "organic" life: they could equally well be machines constructed by (or evolved from) such life. But if they were to reveal themselves, conventional wisdom suggests it would most likely be via radio frequency signals.

Radio telescopes have been used to scan the sky for artificial transmissions. Even these small-scale efforts have had a hard time getting public funding (even at the level less than the tax revenues from a single science fiction movie) because the topic is encumbered by manifestly "flakey" connotations. Such projects are obviously a gamble, with heavy odds against success. Signals would take many years in transit. For this reason alone, transmission would be primarily one way — there would be time to devise a measured response, but no scope for quick repartee.

But the mere receipt of a manifestly artificial signal, even if the "culture gap" were too wide to allow us to make sense of it, would in itself have immense scientific and philosophical import. We would know that our Earth was not the only place where something interesting had evolved, and that concepts of logic and physics were not peculiar to the hardware of human skulls.

It would in some ways be disappointing if searches for intelligent life were doomed to fail. But we could then envisage our Earth and its biosphere in a less humble cosmic perspective than it might otherwise merit.

The author is Astronomer Royal.

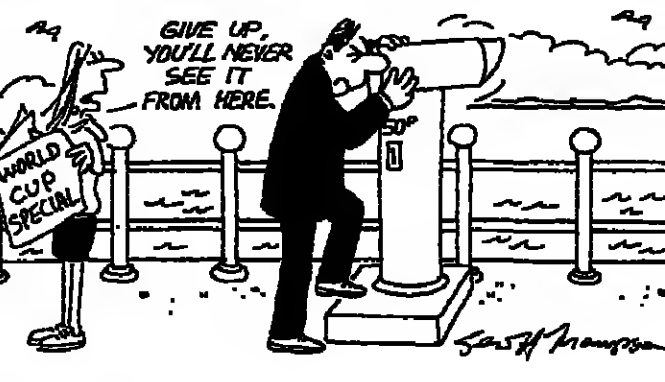
# Scream team

WHILE not snooping undercover for MI6, Jonathan Aitken has been unwinding by engaging in "scream therapy". To lift the strain of his libel battle against *The Guardian*, he has attended the same salon as one Mandy Rice-Davies, another scandal-hit curvaceous Conservative. Aitken (pictured) stashed himself in this fashionable deep form of massage during his failed case. The clinic he chose is run by Roger Golden, a "hellworker" therapist: his "deep tissue" body workouts designed to relieve chronic tension, are reputed to be so intense that they make subjects scream during treatment. Miss Rice-Davies (pictured), now a novelist, enjoys the harsh caress: "I write my books by hand and get back and shoulder problems, so I am very keen on massages."

As a former call-girl who took centre stage with Christine Keeler in the 1963 Profumo scandal, she helped to bring down Harold Macmillan. Aitken's problems, while of a different variety, did much to undermine John Major's



administration. So what is the appeal to them, as well as Adnan Khashoggi, the arms dealer, and George Soros, the economy-buster? "It is very intense, designed to relieve deep-seated tension," says Golden. "And I think Jonathan has more than most."

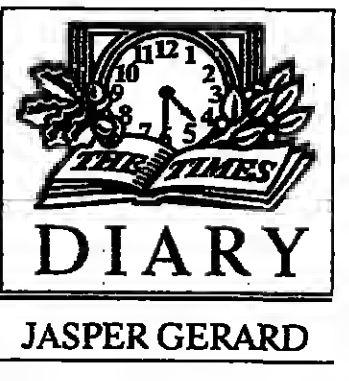


● LIKE a debauched character from one of his scripts, Bruce Robinson, the engagingly dissolute creator of *Withnail and I*, is bringing a taste of *Soho* to Hollywood. Robinson, who gathered a cult following for his filmic memoir of *Sixties* excess, recently popped over to discuss ideas with Steven Spielberg. When Robinson rolled up to his mansion one morning, the director's guards frisked him after spotting a suspicious bulge in his jacket pocket. The offensive weapon? A large bottle of vodka.

● DR LIAM FOX has come to the rescue of Natalia Imbruglia, the andropean pop star (adorning these jottings, right). The Tory constitutional spokesman, mentioned as one of the delightful singer's arm-rests, stepped in to sort out a spot of trouble she was encountering with US Immigration. The wretches, it seems, were not prepared to issue Imbruglia with the necessary paperwork for her to pursue her career in the United States. (Perhaps her application contained a CD rather than a photograph.)

The dashing MP did the gentlemanly thing and put her in touch with a US senator, which seems to have done the trick. "That's what MPs do," says Fox. Hum. So they do for their constituents, but I can't say I have noticed Miss Imbruglia wiggling up the High Street in Weston-super-Mare.

● THE tortoise race at Oxford was a tense affair this year. Corpus



Christi was nervous before the start when their man went missing. A partisan don, Clive Ellory, offered his own competitor to take on the Balliol behemoth, Roso Luvenburg. But Rosa, who had been limbering up in a compost heap before the race, romped to victory. She displayed her respect for the oppo-



sition — all over the boots of the Master of Corpus Christi.

# Naked talent

THE Quenón Tarranino of the English stage is suffering the rigours of her art. Sarah Kane has stepped in to appear as Grace, the lead female role, in the last three performances of *Cleanse*, after Susan Sylvester, the actress, injured her back last weekend. The playwright, whose last play, *Blasted*, contained the usual lashings of sick violence, spent most of the performance naked. She was also tortured, simulated sex with the ghost of her dead brother and underwent a sex change without anaesthetic. For comic interludes, flesh-eating, mechanical rats scoured around the West End stage snapping at ankles. "She received a great response," says one. "She did the sadistic stuff like Olivier on speed."

● HAS Ann Widdecombe ever succumbed to the image consultants' offers to make her more "media-friendly"? "Most emphatically not," she has previously maintained. But in *Widdecombe Fair*, tonight's Sky News portrait of the delightful MP, she concedes a moment of weakness: "There were a large number of attempts by Control Office to get me to see a consultant which I strongly resisted. Finally, Gillian Shepherd managed to get me to one, saying she was afraid to go alone. Absolute waste of time. I laughed and took no notice of anything she said." Quite right too.



THE smartest bash in every brief's diary is to be hijacked by one of the greatest disasters in musical history. The Inns of Court Ball, an annual riot of champagne, truffles and obscene wealth attended by 2,000 silken types, is to see the relaunch of Siqueu Signe Sputnik. The hyped "futuristic" band crashed because of indifference from a discerning public, leaving its record company with a £4 million debt. The group's performance at Inner Temple next month will test the tastes of guests such as Helena Kennedy, QC, Peter Carter-Ruck and Lord Irvine of Lairg, who might prefer the wallpaper music of Belinda Carlisle, who should salvage the entertainment. The band will renew its acquaintance of maliciously wounding a fan with a beer bottle. "It's their first show for a decade and they have been practising for months. They are determined actually to play their instruments," says a friend who promises the group will perform all of its greatest hit, *Love Missile F1-11 (Shoot it Up)*. Janet Street-Porter, who once dated Tony James, bass player and "brain" behind the Sputnik scam, has been invited. It promises to be a most harmonious evening.

# IT COULD BE

for the duties are delightful





# NUCLEAR ILLOGIC

### Why Cold War history is irrelevant to the Indian subcontinent

The most dangerous fallacy that could be adopted in the wake of the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests is that deterrence will now operate to prevent war between them and thus paradoxically make the sub-continent safer. When the Soviet Union exploded its first atomic warhead in 1949, the world became an infinitely more dangerous place: so it is today. Memories of Cold War nuclear deterrence may now be dominated by knowledge of the elaborate precautions against nuclear "accidents" taken by both super-powers. But these were not always in place.

The fears in the 1950s of a four-minute warning of nuclear strikes were not hysterical propaganda. Reliable early warning systems came later — the Cuba missile crisis of 1962 came about because the US detected the Soviet missiles only when they were deployed. The "MAD" doctrine of mutual assured destruction was preceded by a nuclear arms build-up during which military doctrine, both in America and in the Soviet Union, embraced the possibility of decisive first strikes. The switch from war-fighting to deterrence was determined by the certainty that the use of inter-continental ballistic missiles would be suicidal. Nuclear disarmament began with the dismantling of short-range, tactical and battlefield nuclear weapons because it was understood that these were the most destabilising, because the most likely to be used. These are the weapons India and Pakistan are ambitious to acquire.

Even in the early years, both super-powers were grimly certain that they risked nuclear-armed world war. A nuclear arms race between two hostile regional powers is inherently more unstable — above all when both are actually engaged in low-intensity conflicts, along the "line of control" in disputed Kashmir and, with singularly futile irrationality, on the Siachen glacier.

Irrational phobias have always governed India-Pakistan relations. There was not much emotion about the Cold War. No leader, East or West, came close to uttering the wild threats that Delhi and Islamabad constantly trade with each other, and which have become more inflammatory than ever in the past two months. To the dangers of false

alarms due to technological malfunction, political miscalculation must thus be added. Nowhere in the world is war more likely to happen by accident. In a battlefield crisis, Pakistan could well find itself, as it has been in previous wars, in a position of conventional inferiority. Unlike India, it has said nothing about "no first use" of nuclear weapons and its Foreign Minister, Gohar Ayub Khan, has even claimed that Pakistan would come better out of a nuclear exchange because it lacks India's huge concentrations of city populations. Both countries have tested missiles, India's Agni and Pakistan's Ghauri, with potential ranges of 1,500 miles; India's would cover all of Pakistan, western China and much of South Central Asia; Pakistan's could reach Indian targets as far south as Madras. With conventional warheads, they are too inaccurate to be effective; nuclear-armed, they would be devastating.

The imperative, therefore, more important than getting them to sign the comprehensive test ban treaty or even the nuclear nonproliferation, is to stop either country from "weaponising" — the decisive next step in this dangerous race. The window of opportunity is not large, possibly nine to 12 months. Can it be done? Probably not, if Britain dissuades the EU from economic sanctions that would "hurt the poor". The poor stand to lose still more if money far in excess of the West's combined aid is diverted to nuclear weapons.

Both India and Pakistan have voters. The sooner they can be convinced that their leaders have made a hugely costly blunder, the better. Nawaz Sharif told President Clinton that for Pakistan to hold off tests would be electoral disaster; but he must be nervous that economic pain could be too, or Pakistan would not have declared a state of emergency that includes press censorship. In India, sobriety was returning before the Pakistan tests. Sharp cuts in aid would puncture the rhetoric about joining the "top table" of world powers. These two countries will never be more than minor powers so long as they stay poor. Economic pain should help to dissuade other nuclear aspirants — and save poor as well as rich in both countries from the risk of incineration.

# WHITSUNTIDE

### 'God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son...' (Galatians iv.6)

In the English language and in English thought-forms the word "spirit" can be problematic. In most European languages this is not the case. Geist in German and esprit in French do not have the often attenuated English sense in which spirit is simply equated with mind or intellect. There are those at the opposite pole who make another simple equation: "spirit" is simply feeling or emotion — the irrational, the ecstatic, even the disordered. While there is a proper contrast to be made between spirit and letter, dynamic power and formal structure, a simple opposition between spirit and order is distorting.

The word "spirit" has do with life. The biblical writers made a simple equation between life and breath. In Genesis the ancient myth of creation depicted God breathing into the nostril of Adam, and "the man became a living soul". The Psalmist wrote that when God took away breath, human beings died and "were turned again to their dust".

The Hebrew writers called wind and breath alike *ruach*, the livingness of things, the livingness of the human person, and no less the livingness of God the creator. To speak of God as Spirit is to speak of God as the creative, communicative source of life and being, in whose image human personhood is made.

This Sunday, Whit Sunday, the Feast of Pentecost, the Christian churches keep the festival of the Holy Spirit. The distorting identification of spirit with intellect on the one hand and emotion on the other has made this feast of the irruption of the Holy Spirit the Cinderella of the three great Christian festivals in comparison with

Christmas and Easter. Yet at its heart it is a celebration of the possibility of a new life, the life of grace, and the divine gift which makes this possible. Lancelot Andrewes, the great 17th-century bishop and preacher, saw Pentecost as the feast of "God-in-us", the fulfilment of Christmas, "God-with-us".

The new gift of life is a gift enabling Christlikeness. To be touched by the Spirit of Christ is to be drawn into a magnetic field or network which engenders those qualities of life that Paul calls "the fruits of the Spirit" — "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance". That magnetic power, that source of life, is at the heart of the Church, the community and communion of Christ's new creation, which is ordered in love by the life-giving Spirit.

The opposite we know all too well — the enslaving power of the violence and fear engendered by a Pol Pot or a Stalin, or the capacity of human nature to be made captive to addictions of many kinds — pornography, possessions, the drugs of domination, and the drugs of escape, the distorting lenses of religious and racial wars, and every variety of sectarian tribalism. All of these make up that world of sin from which we need first to be saved, and then the grace to transform.

Pentecost celebrates the possibility of that transformation. The life-giving Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, is the whirlwind of grace and the fire of love whose glory shines in lives marked by the fruits of the Spirit, and wherever old hatreds give way to the possibilities of peace. At Pentecost the God from whom all things take their origin is known as a transforming presence, a God nearer than breathing, whose grace is a resource of love to change the world.

# IT COULD BE LORD YOU

### For the duties are delightful and the privileges great

A politicised version of the National Lottery should select the members of a reformed "people's" House of Lords. As we report today, Demos, the fashionable think-tank, will make this speculative proposal in a report due to be published next week.

There are incidental merits in its suggestion. The first democracy did indeed select its jurors and some of its magistrates by mechanical lottery machines, though the franchise was limited. Sortition (election by raffle) can be seen as a more democratic process than being born with a title inherited from an ancestor who slept with a king, or came over to conquer with William, or knew Lloyd George. A genuine lottery would produce a more representative sample of modern Britain than the partisan lottery of lists of superannuated politicians, or the expensive tombola of contributors to party funds, or Buggins's lucky dip of office-holders and other professional representatives.

But there are also demerits in picking new peers by the tumble of the balls. Under the Lords' and commoners' law of averages, the people's ermine will fall on inconvenient as well as random or deserving shoulders. Crofters in Lewis and family solicitors in Penzance might resent having to commute to

London — and missing the weekend train home because of a three-line people's whip. In the *Wasps*, the predecessor of *Have I Got News for You?*, Aristophanes sent up the populist delusions of election by lottery. In it only the elderly retired can afford to be elected. They may think that they are enjoying the pleasures and benefits of exercising power irresponsibly. But in fact they are being manipulated by cynical professional politicians and spin-doctors. The chance of being a self-important lottery legislator becomes addictive and corrupting.

So there will have to be safeguards if peers are ever to be elected by lot. Otherwise there will be ugly scenes over the breakfast table when the news of ennoblement arrives. As in the common National Lottery, the winners of peerages should be allowed to opt for no publicity. There must be a rule to prevent ambitious politicians such as Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare from buying 100 tickets in their lordships' lottery. The Anthea Turner figure hosting the draw on television must perform in ermine and with dignity, because, with all their faults, the British love their House of Peers. And the consolation prize for those who just fail to become people's peers must be a job at Demos.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## A time to forgive, if not forget, Japan's wartime record?

*From Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leah*

Sir, After what they have been through it would be unreasonable to expect our ex-Far East prisoners of war to forget. It would not be unreasonable to expect them to forgive. If over the centuries the people of our country had persisted in the same attitude of vindictive hatred there would today be hardly a single nation in Europe, Africa, Asia or the sub-continent of India with whom we were in terms. Does any responsible person seriously think that is the way to shape the world of the future?

More than 50 years later our ex-PoWs continue to bang on about apologies and compensation. Such as we accorded to the citizens of Dresden and Hamburg? Or in the French at Oran? Or to the Indians at Amritsar? By their interperate display of ill-mannered rudeness and discourtesy to a visiting head of state — who has uttered generous and evidently heartfelt regrets over past events for which he was in no way responsible — they have brought shame on themselves and discredit on their country.

I write as someone who also fought in the Far East in 1941 and whose father was killed by the Japanese in an entirely honourable action. War is an unpleasant business.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY LEAH,  
Winston Lea, Winstone,  
Winchester, Hampshire SO21 3LS,  
May 29.

*From Major-General I. H. Lyall Grant*

Sir, It makes one despair of human nature, and the possibilities of peaceful co-existence, that a handful of "vet-

erans", however appalling the treatment that some of them suffered as prisoners or internees more than 50 years ago, should try to insult publicly the head of state of a proud and friendly foreign country for what appear to be purely personal reasons.

Perhaps, before attempting to prolong an old dispute, they should think harder about the harm they do to their country, and the disservice they do to their grandchildren.

Those who condone their actions should reflect on the much larger number who suffered severe injury in the long fight against Japan and, if they were lucky enough to survive, do not complain. Those who publicise the antics of the few should think again about the wisdom of doing so.

Yours sincerely,  
IAN LYALL GRANT  
(Honorary President, Burma Campaign Fellowship Group),  
6 St Martin's Square,  
Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1NT,  
May 28.

*From Major-General C. A. Kinving (ret'd)*

Sir, May I offer a footnote on the Far East PoWs' reaction to the visit of Emperor Akihito?

First, it is not "the scars of war", as the Emperor's speech expressed it, which the PoWs bear, but the scars of Japan's failure to obey the laws of war as expressed in the Hague and Geneva Conventions and which her Government had promised to observe. It is for this that they seek acknowledgement of fault and recompense.

Secondly, the earlier compensation which the PoWs received (in instalments, incidentally, was not a direct payment by "the bankrupt Japanese", as Simon Jenkins suggests "A time to

forgive", May 27), but was the proceeds of the seizing of Japanese assets in Allied hands which had been frozen at the start of the war.

Finally, the principle of paying even this compensation was initially opposed by our Government of the day and by the Chiefs of Staff. Perhaps in today's changed political climate the exacting of such compensation in similar circumstances might be an appropriate aim of an ethical foreign policy.

Yours sincerely,  
CLIFFORD KINNING,  
Toft Cottage,  
Perrots Brook, Cirencester,  
Gloucestershire GL7 7BL,  
May 28.

*From Dr Stephen K. Carter*

Sir, I have taught European studies this year to a group of Japanese students at King's College London. They are very nice, polite and industrious; but in the section dealing with the history of the Cold War I became aware that none of them knew about the brutal Japanese imperialism of the 1930s and 1940s.

If the Japanese Ministry of Education were to commission a history of Japanese Fascism and incorporate it into the high-school syllabus, we would all feel happier about the future of this truly great and talented nation.

As Simon Jenkins writes in his article today, "Only the damned forget their history."

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN K. CARTER  
(Senior Lecturer in Politics and Modern History),  
London Guildhall University,  
Calcutta House,  
Old Castle Street, E1 7NT,  
May 27.

## Car emissions and causes of asthma

*From Mr Ian Watson*

Sir, Vehicle emissions are not as guilty as your leading article suggests (Bureaucratic haze: May 27) for the rise in asthma. Research by the US Environmental Protection Agency indicates that air pollution within the home is up to 70 times higher than outside, and that a dangerous cocktail of chemicals created by dry-cleaned clothes, air fresheners, cigarette smoke and chlorinated water, combined with household dust-mites and their excrement, are probably behind the asthma epidemic — not the car.

The problems with vehicle pollution are, as you note, mainly caused by poor maintenance; the RAC has found that the cleanest 70 per cent of vehicles in London produce only 18 per cent of the pollution. Pollution from power stations, as you report in the same edition, is now thought to be as culpable as ill-maintained vehicles.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN WATSON,  
70 Sterling Place,  
South Ealing, W5 4RB,  
ian.watson@ic.ac.uk  
May 27.

*From the Director General of the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK*

Sir, Cleaner air in our city centres will not be achieved by tougher enforcement of existing laws alone. There must also be a fundamental change in the way we choose to travel.

Congestion causes pollution. Motor engines are at their least efficient when they are idling in a traffic jam. A comprehensive set of measures giving priority to buses will go a long way to solving this problem.

If local authorities go down this route, not only will buses move more freely, but people will at last be able to see that public transport is more reliable, efficient and environmentally friendly than a traffic-bound private car.

A thriving bus network ensures the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of any city centre. To date, the bus industry has nothing but admiration for the positive approach adopted by this Government towards public transport and, more importantly, its passengers — announcements on the restoration of fuel duty rebate and the new rural bus grant are just two examples. We await the White Paper with interest.

Yours faithfully,  
VERONICA PALMER,  
Director General,  
Confederation of Passenger Transport UK,  
Imperial House,  
15-19 Kingsway, WC2B 6UN,  
May 27.

## Falklands future

*From Mr Harold Briley*

Sir, In his letter of May 15, Robert Elgood, Vice-Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association, blamed the Argentine press for hyping-up expectations that President Menem's planned visit to the United Kingdom in November could further Argentina's sovereignty claim to the Falkland Islands.

However, as your report confirms ("Menem's Falkland challenge to the Queen", May 25), it is the Argentine Government itself, not just the media, which is the prime mover in relentlessly pressing this false claim. It has intensified that campaign at every opportunity.

The British public needs constant reminding that evicting of the Argentine invaders by the British task force — at high cost in lives lost and men injured — did not unfortunately end the dispute in Argentina's view. I was there at the time, when Argentina said it had "lost a battle not the war". It has continued to wage a war of words ever since, in its campaign to win by diplomatic means what it failed to do by aggression.

What is at stake is the islanders' right to live in freedom, just as the Argentinians do, thanks to Britain's part in defeating the Argentine military regime. Britain today cannot allow the sacrifices of 1982 to count for nothing.

Yours faithfully,  
HAROLD BRILEY  
(BBC Latin America Correspondent in Argentina, 1982),  
36 Starns Mead,  
Banke, East Sussex TN33 0UG,  
May 25.

## Bankside art

*From the Director of the Tate Gallery*

Sir, Mr Fletcher Robinson (letter, May 28) need have no concerns. The City will certainly be well served by the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art when it opens at Bankside in 2000 and is, we hope, directly connected to the north bank by Norman Foster, Anthony Caro and Chris Wise's elegant footbridge.

The displays will include all of the Tate's classic 20th-century works, including groups by Cézanne, Picasso, Matisse, Giacometti, Bacon, Nicholson and Rothko, as well as more recent British and international art. The Turner Prize itself, being confined to recognising the achievements of British artists, will remain at the revitalised Tate Gallery of British Art at Millbank.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS SEROTA,  
Director, Tate Gallery,  
Millbank, SW1P 4RG,  
May 29.

## Fit for an Emperor

*From Mr M. W. Lee*

Sir, The banquet given for the Emperor of Japan, you tell us today, had an "avowedly British" menu. You then, in the edition seen here, reproduce the said menu — in French!

I have, down the years, consumed some choice morsels served up in your pages, but this latest *premi le biscuit*.

Yours faithfully,  
M. W. LEE,  
2bis, Rue d'Alsace-Lorraine,  
45000 Orleans, France,  
May 27.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Reassessment of cannabis dangers

*From Mr Steven Davis*

Sir, Dr Andrew Wilski (letter, May 23) makes valid points on the adverse effects of long-term cannabis use. Yet he acknowledges that "those who are mentally sturdy may tolerate its use without great harm". It seems that the greatest peril to the long-term pot user is to induce "a state of low motivation". Shouldn't the mentally sturdy be allowed to choose?

The deleterious effects of long-term alcohol consumption are well known and are measurably more destructive than prolonged cannabis use. Yet there is no outcry in Great Britain to ban alcohol.

In my country marijuana prohibition has been a huge failure, lining the pockets of dealers and lawyers and turning otherwise law-abiding people into criminals.

The great erosion of will is more with politicians, who do not seem to give serious consideration to this subject, than with the individual user.

Yours truly,  
STEVEN DAVIS,  
911 Jewel Street, Austin, Texas 78704,  
cdavis@flash.net  
May 24.

*From Mr Pat Dolan*

Sir, Dr Wilski tells us that it should be

obvious to anyone working in the field of psychiatry that "cannabis is a steadily noxious substance", but offers no evidence.

For thirty years I have worked in the field as a counsellor and read widely in drugs literature. During that time I have known six psychiatrists who attended Alcoholics Anonymous meetings to help them recover from alcoholism. I have yet to hear of anyone trying to recover from addiction to marijuana.

In 1988, after a two-year investigation involving thousands of pages of expert testimony, the American Drug Enforcement Agency's own chief administrator, Francis L. Young, concluded that "marijuana, in its natural form, is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man" (Docket No. 86-22, September 6, 1988).

Thus I trust Dr Wilski will not think me guilty of either "ill-will or ignorance" if I find his position totally unconvincing.

Yours etc,  
PAT DOLAN,  
503 Dendrell Street,  
Vancouver,  
British Columbia V6E 3N4,  
pdolan@intergate.bc.ca  
May 25.

## Voting reform

*From Mr Bernard Black*

Sir, In Peter Riddell's review of the Conservative Party's submission to the Independent Commission on Electoral Reform ("Conservatives right to state their case on voting reforms", May 22) he avers that the commission "was never supposed to be a detached inquiry into the voting system. It was always intended to come up with an alternative for the first past the post that could be sold both to Labour and the Lib Dems." If that is the case the commission is founded on a sham and is unworthy of the prefix "independent".

As the issue is to be decided by a referendum originally promised by the late John Smith, who pointed out in 1993 that the last people to decide between system A and system B are those elected by system A, it is fervent-

ly to be hoped that a denial will soon be forthcoming.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD BLACK  
(Head of Political Studies),  
St John's College,  
Grove Road South,  
Southsea, Hampshire PO5 3QW.

*From Mr Bob Clough-Parker*

Sir, I wonder if Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is aware of the limits on the independence of his commission, as described by Peter Riddell.

The real point at issue here should be not what is acceptable to parties and politicians of any hue but, rather, what is best for the people.

Yours faithfully,  
BOB CLOUGH-PARKER,  
85 Tarvin Road, Chester CH3 5EF,  
May 22.

## Teenage parties

*From Mrs Judy Astley*

Sir, Several of us have gone away for a few days leaving the teenage daughters in charge of the house (letters, May 27). We have found there is a sort of damage-limitation ratio: the cleaner the place is when we get back, the more people they have had in.

Yours faithfully,  
JUDY ASTLEY,  
2 The Embankment,  
Twickenham, TW1 3DU,  
May 27.

## Off target

*From Mr R. V. Munden*

Sir, I hope Anne Robinson's Gucci-wearing former friends who are so "impressively knowledgeable on countryside matters" (Weekend, May 23) are duly prosecuted when they start shooting pheasants in August.

The close season for pheasants is from February 2 to September 30.

Yours sincerely,  
R. V. MUNDEN,  
Lower Woodbrook,  
Luton, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7ST,  
May 25.

## Medieval 'mad cows'

*From Professor J. H. Baker, QC, FBA*

Sir, The government lawyers whom you today report to be searching for the origins of official concern about "mad cow" disease might care to begin their investigations in the medieval period.

In the reign of Henry VII a butcher was indicted for buying, slaughtering and selling meat derived from a mad cow (*vacca furiosa*), knowing it to be such and unfit for human consumption. According to the wording of the indictment, a contemporary copy of which survives in the British Library, this was "contrary to the custom of the realm".

Those words indicate that the problem had been familiar time out of mind; and the indictment was framed on the assumption that selling meat from mad cows was a common-law misdemeanour. We ignore past wisdom at our peril.

Yours faithfully,  
J. H. BAKER,  
St Catharine's College,  
Cambridge CB2 3RL,  
May 28.

## Image of the media

*From Lord Hurd of Westwell*

Sir, I am awed that William Rees-Mogg should look so comprehensively through his powerful microscope at my novel, *The Shape of Ice* ("The Hurd instinct", May 28). I do not quarrel with his analysis — until we get to the sleight of hand at the end.

Because the novel treats the modern media with less than flattery Lord Rees-Mogg holds that its author cannot be a true democrat. It is understandable that a former Editor of *The Times* should equate democracy with the media. It is, I think, open for other democrats to disagree.

Yours truly,  
DOUGLAS HURD,  
House of Lords,  
May 28.

## Off the scent

*From Dr Daphne L. Watkins*

Sir, Mr Ian Rae (letter, May 22), his interest caught by news of an undetectable toiletry which makes men more attractive to women, asks if there are "any plans to market an odourless repellent". Is Mr Rae quite certain that he would need this?

Yours faithfully,  
D. WATKINS,  
Ty Newydd,  
Velindre, Crumeych,  
Pembrokeshire SA41 3XF,  
May 22.

*From Dr J. A. D. Ewart*

Sir, No, Mr Rae: most of us men don't need his repellent.

Yours faithfully,  
J. A. D. EWART,  
Delgany, Solesbridge Lane,  
Chorleywood, Rickmansworth,  
Hertfordshire WD3 5SW,  
May 22.

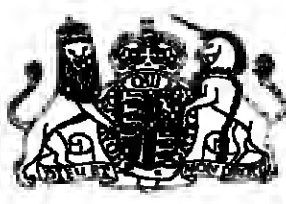
## Screen tests

*From Mr Michael Stanhope*

Sir, May I suggest to the team at Edinburgh Zoo, who have concluded that female chimpanzees are more likely to become addicted to television than males (report, May 29), that a more scientific approach would be to repeat the experiment, this time replacing the nature documentaries with live coverage of the World Cup.

Yours faithfully,  
M. B. STANHOPE,  
Alma House, Wittoft,  
Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 5BE,  
May 29.





### COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
May 28: The Emperor and the Empress of Japan, with the Japanese Suite in attendance, left Buckingham Palace this morning upon the conclusion of the State Visit to The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

His Majesty visited the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, was received by the President (Sir Ghilean France), met Fellows and Members and viewed exhibits.

Her Majesty visited the British Red Cross Society National Headquarters, Grosvenor Crescent, Belgrave, London, and was received by Sir Alan Munro (Vice Chairman of the Society).

The Emperor and the Empress of Japan today attended a Reception at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London, given by the Japan Society, the Japan Association, the Nippon Club and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the United Kingdom.

Their Majesties were entertained to Lunch at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence this afternoon.

The Emperor of Japan later visited the Zoological Society, Regent's Park, London, and was received by Field Marshal Sir John Chapple (former President).

The following were received in audience by The Queen this afternoon and kissed hands upon their appointment: Mr David Osborne (Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras), Mr Andrew Murray (Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Uruguay), Mr Jeremy Thorp (Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia) and Mr Frank Savage (Governor of the British Virgin Islands).

Mrs Osborne, Mrs Murray, Mrs Thorp and Mrs Savage were also received by Her Majesty.

Mr Martin Williams was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to New Zealand.

Mrs Williams was also received by Her Majesty.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
May 29: The Prince of Wales, Patron, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, this morning received Dr Farhan Nizami.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
May 29: The Duke of York this morning attended the Reuters Golf Tournament at Nitrvalja Golf Club, Estonia, and accepted a cheque on behalf of the Nornme Children's Hospital from the sponsors.

His Royal Highness later visited Jaguar Estonia in Paldiski, Tallinn.

The Duke of York afterwards visited the English Language College, Tallinn.

His Royal Highness subsequently opened the new Shell Petrol Station in Pärnu, Tallinn, to mark a major Anglo-Estonian investment.

The Duke of York this afternoon attended the fifth anniversary celebrations of the British Council in the Baltic States at the British Council in the Old Town, Tallinn.

His Royal Highness afterwards departed Estonia for Russia and was received later at St Petersburg International Airport by the British Consul General (His Excellency Mr John Coy).

The Duke of York was received at Smolny, St Petersburg, this evening by the Governor of St Petersburg (Mr Vladimir Yakovlev).

Later His Royal Highness attended a Dinner given by the British Consul General at the Sheraton Nevsky Palace Hotel, St Petersburg.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
May 29: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Logistic Corps, this morning visited Dalton Barracks, Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Reception at Dalton Barracks to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Royal Voluntary Service and was received by Mr Charles Parker (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire).

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
May 29: The Duke of Kent, Patron, The Duke of Kent, this evening attended a discourse given by Professor Peter Day (Director) at Albemarle Street, London W1.



Lorna Sumner and Mark Currie, from Ealing, West London, who have recently announced their engagement

### Forthcoming marriages

**The Hon O.R. Cumberlege and Miss N. Pennington**  
The engagement is announced between Oliver, youngest son of Mr Patrick Cumberlege and Baroness Cumberlege of Newick, Sussex, and Nicola, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Christopher Pennington, of Wordsley, West Midlands.

**Mr S.D. Deason and Miss E.M.M. Brodrick**  
The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robert Deason, of Measham, Leicestershire, and Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Brodrick, of Thursty, Cumbria.

**Mr M.E.S. Fletcher and Miss J. Broston**  
The engagement is announced between Michael, youngest son of Mr John Fletcher, of Randburg, South Africa, and of Mrs Judy Fletcher, of Swamere, Hampshire, and Jane, daughter of Sir Gordon and Lady Brunton, of Godalming, Surrey.

**Captain K.J. Haworth, RAMC, and Dr E.C. Cuzner**  
The engagement is announced between Kenneth, eldest son of Captain and Mrs J.E. Haworth, of Hong Kong and Scarborough, Lancashire, and Emma, daughter of Mr Robin Cuzner, of Lothersdale, Yorkshire and Mrs Sheila Cuzner, of Hampton, Middlesex.

**Mr M.O.D. Hibbit and Miss C.C. Reynolds**  
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of the late Dr and Mrs Douglas Hibbit, of Hildes, West Yorkshire, and Claire, younger daughter of the late Mr Brian Reynolds and Mrs Reynolds, of Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire.

**Mr P.M. Kirkland, FRCS, and Miss N. Turner**  
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs Rod Kirkland, of Radlett, Hertfordshire, and Nick, elder daughter of Mr Gavin Turner, of Bath and Mrs Jane Knight, of London.

**Mr P.R.C. Fish and Miss T.J. Sharpe**  
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of the late Mr and Mrs Jack Fish, of Bury, Lancashire, and Tiffany, daughter of Squadron Leader and Mrs Mike Sharpe, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

**Dr F.G. Mayall and Dr H. Chidgey**  
The engagement is announced between Frederick, son of Dr G. and Dr E. Mayall, of Exeter, and Helen, daughter of the late Mr L. Chidgey and of Mrs Chidgey, of Little Ham, Wellington, New Zealand.

**Dr A. Norman and Mrs P. Homer**  
The engagement is announced and the marriage will shortly take place between Dr Andrew Norman, of Brook Green, London, and Mrs Pamela Homer, of Hingham, Norfolk.

**Mr I.H.G. Parry and Miss C.C. Eginton**  
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Dr and Mrs Parry, of Porthmadog, Gwynedd, and Charlotte, daughter of the late Dr Guy Eginton and of Mrs Caroline Eginton, of Arkeley, Hertfordshire.

**Mr A.D. Payne and Miss E.L. James**  
The engagement is announced between Ashley, son of Mr Michael and the Hon Mrs Payne, of Cockpole Green, Berkshire, and Emma, elder daughter of the late Mr Colin James and of Mrs Colin James, of Madford, Devon.

**Mr H. Ritson and Miss C.H.A. Robson**  
The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Professor and Mrs Christopher Ritson, of Morpeth, Northumberland, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Robson, of St Ives, Cambridgeshire.

**Dr M.W. Wainwright and Dr N.L. Hancock**  
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Warner, of Wendens Ambo, Essex, and Natasha, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Hancock, of Perth, Western Australia.

### Dinners

**Royal College of Radiologists**  
Professor Lewis Wolpert, FRCS, delivered the 42nd Crookshank lecture to the Royal College of Radiologists at a ceremony on Tuesday evening to mark the Admission of New Fellows held yesterday at the Royal College of Physicians. Professor Charles Gooding and Professor Michael Baum were admitted as Honorary Fellows. Afterwards, Professor Wolpert was the guest of honour at a dinner held at the Royal Society of Medicine. The President of the Royal College of Radiologists and Mrs Brindley were the hosts.

**Africa-European Union Economic Forum**  
Mr Philip Lowe, Director-General for Development at the European Commission, was the guest of honour and speaker at the Africa Day luncheon, arranged by the Africa-European Union Economic Forum, at the Reform Club yesterday. Mr Roger Sibley, chairman of the forum, presided. Miss Zeinab Badawi also spoke. The High Commissioners for Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Tanzania were among those present.

**The Royal Stuart Society**  
The Royal Stuart Society's Restoration Day Dinner was held at the Travellers Club last night. The Duke of St Albans (Governor-General) presided. Mr David Beate (Principal Secretary) proposed the toast to the guests. Lady Olga Maitland proposed in response the toast to the Royal Stuart Society. Mr Gordon Marsden, MP, proposed the toast to the Memory of King Charles II and the Restoration.

### Weekend birthdays

Prince Rainier III of Monaco celebrates his 75th birthday tomorrow.

**TODAY:**  
Mr Neville Braybrooke, writer, 75; Mr W.P. Cilani, thoracic surgeon, 85; Mr Ray Cooney, theatrical producer, 66; the Marquess of Ely, 85; Mr Harry Enfield, writer, actor and comedian, 37; Mr Andrew Farrell, rugby league player, 23; the Right Rev J.W. Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford, 56; Mr Richard Hannon, racehorse trainer, 53; Air Marshal Sir Reginald Harland, 78; Sir David Knox, former MP, 68; Mr Timothy Dorset, former managing director, 72; Mr Stephen Jones, milliner, 41; Sir Jan Lewando, former director, Marks & Spencer, 89; the Earl of Macclesfield, 53; Miss Debbie Moore, founder chairman, Pineapple Dance Studios, 53; Mr John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, 60; Lord Sandberg, 71; Sir Neil Shaw, chairman, National Federation of Women's Institutes, 66; Miss Isabel Stead, former diplomat, 71; Professor Sir William Taylor, former Chairman of Convocation, London University, 68; Mr Justice Turner, 67; Vice-Admiral Sir George Yallings, 66; Mr Terry Waine, former advisor on Anglican Communion Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury, 59; Mr Peter Winterbottom, rugby player, 38.

**TOMORROW:**  
Professor Michael Baum, Professor of Surgery, University College Hospital, 61; Miss Lynn Bellingham, 50; Sir Derek Birley, former Vice-Chancellor, Ulster University, 72; Professor Dame June Clark, Professor of Community Nursing, University of Wales Swansea, 57; Sir John

### Service dinners

**RN College Greenwich**  
Commander J.M.C. Maughan, Commander of the Royal Naval College Greenwich, presided at a ladies guest night dinner held last night at the college. Captain P.E. Duncan, Chief Naval Officer for Womersley, was the principal guest. Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders Major-General D.F. Thomson presided at a dinner of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders' dinner club held last night at the Caledonian Club.

**XV Squadron Association**  
Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, President of the XV Squadron Association, accompanied by Lady Simmons, presided at the annual dinner held last night at RAF Cottesmore. Wing Commander Graham Dixon, Squadron Commander, attended.

### Retirement

Judge Gerald Coombe has retired from the South Eastern Circuit.

### Sir Ronald Millar

A service to celebrate the life of Sir Ronald Millar will be held at St Paul's Church, Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2, on Monday, June 1, at 11.30.

### Christopher Stacy Waddy

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Christopher Stacy Waddy will be held on Friday, June 26, at noon at St Lukes Church, Sydney Street, London SW3.

### Anniversaries

**TODAY**  
BIRTHS: Sir Roger Newdigate, antiquary, Arbury, Warwickshire, 1719; Samuel Spalding, philosopher, London, 1807; Alfred Austin, poet Laureate 1896-1913, Leeds, 1835; Hermann Adler, Chief Rabbi of the British Empire 1891-1911, Hanover, 1838; Peter Carl Fabergé, goldsmith, St Petersburg, 1846; Benny Goodman, clarinetist, Chicago, 1909.

DEATHS: St Joan of Arc, burnt at the stake, Rouen, 1431; Christopher Marlowe, playwright, London, 1593; Sir Peter Paul Rubens, painter, Antwerp, 1640; Alexander Pope, poet, London, 1744; Voltaire, author and philosopher, Paris, 1778; Thomas Chalmers, first Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, 1843-47; Edinburgh, 1847; Wilbur Wright, pioneer of aviation, Dayton, Ohio, 1912; Hermann Broch, writer, New Haven, Connecticut, 1951; Boris Pasternak, novelist, Nobel laureate 1958, Novodevichino, Russia, 1960; Roy Plomley, creator of *Desert Island Discs*, London, 1988.

Jane Seymour became Henry VIII's third wife, 1536.

The Grenadier Guards were formed, 1666.

The first experimental hovercraft, designed by Sir Christopher Cockerell and built by Saunders-Roe, was launched at Cowes, Isle of Wight, 1959.

**TOMORROW**  
BIRTHS: Alexander Cruden, author of *Biblical Concordance*, Aberdeen, 1701; Walt Whitman, poet and essayist, West Hill, New York, 1819; Achille Ratti, Pope Pius XI, 1857-59; Desio, Italy, 1857; Walter Sickert, painter, Munich, 1860; Sir Francis Youngusband, explorer, Muree, Punjab, 1863.

DEATHS: Timoré, painter, Venice, 1594; Franz Joseph Haydn, composer, Vienna, 1809; Joseph Grimaldi, clown, London, 1837; George Green, mathematician and physicist, Stratford, near Nottingham, 1841; Elizabeth Blackwell, first woman doctor of medicine, Hastings, 1910; Jack Dempsey, boxer, New York, 1963.

The Peace of Vereeniging, ending the Boer War, 1902.

The Battle of Jutland took place, 1916.

South Africa became a republic and withdrew from the British Commonwealth, 1961.

Adolf Eichmann, a German war criminal, was hanged in Tel Aviv, 1962.

### 41 SOCCER FANS DIE IN STAMPEDE AT EURO CUP FINAL

By David Miller, Brussels

At least 41 soccer fans died and more than 150 were seriously injured when a riot broke out at the end of the match between the Netherlands and Belgium at the Euro Cup final in Brussels last night. The riot, which broke out at the end of the match, was the most serious since the 1990 (1991 in the case of Liverpool).

After the game had been lost 1-0, Jos Fagan, the Liverpool manager, said: "We obviously knew there were problems, but we didn't know about the deaths."

Mr Charles Ferdinand Notherm, the Belgian Interior Minister, said last night on BBC Newsnight that the cause was that among the British supporters there were so many who were violent.

"We took more precautions than for any other football match of this importance because we feared violence from the British, but we had no idea it would be so brutal. I would be very cautious before letting such people come here again."

There could be little doubt that at the end of the stadium gave way during a stampede by Italian spectators after they were charged by a section of the Liverpool crowd.

The scenes in one corner of the stadium were of pandemonium as helmets, red crosses and emergency hospital services tried in vain to help the injured in the middle of a stampede that continued even after it was evident that some were dead.

At least 20 dead bodies, which were taken to the scene, were covered with tarpaulins as nurses stepped among the injured, trying to determine those who were still alive and to give them transfusions, artificial respiration and other emergency life support.

With bodies still on the terraces among a pile of clothes and debris, the estimated number of dead was increasing every 15 minutes.

The wall of ambulances straggling to the injured to hospital was never ending, and in the pandemonium there were dozens of unattended injured, being comforted by friends or relatives.

It is thought that most of the dead and injured were Italians, for it was their section of the terraces where the riot broke out. But it has to be said that the security arrangements were woefully inadequate.

There was an empty area between rival supporters. But with 45 minutes to go to kick-off Liverpool supporters broke the inadequate barriers separating them from the Italians, who had been incensed by a hail of rocks and missiles from the Liverpool section. The Italians panicked, turned and rushed towards the one main exit in that corner. Dozens were trampled under foot or crushed against barriers.

At one stage Joe Fagan, the Liverpool manager who had announced his retirement earlier in the day, wept as he went out on the pitch to try to instil some order. "This is a football match," he told the crowd. "I get last game as manager, and you are spoiling it. My back and neck are aching. The stadium followed with broadcast appeals in English, French and Dutch.

But by then it was too late.

### ON THIS DAY

May 30, 1985

After Heysel, all English clubs were banned by UEFA from taking part in European competitions, and 14 Liverpool fans were jailed by Belgian courts. The ban was not lifted until 1990 (1991 in the case of Liverpool).

### Memorial concert

**Lady Dacre of Glanton**  
An orchestral concert in memory of Lady Dacre of Glanton was held last night in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford. The City of London Sinfonia, conducted by Mr Cem Mansur, played Schubert's 5th Symphony and Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony. Mr David Gode, organ, Ms Alla Kravchuk, soprano, and Mr Pawel Zatorski, violin, also took part.

### Appointments in the Forces

**The Army**  
Colonel G M S Shipley, to BLD EW/CIS (USA), 7.6.98  
Retirements  
Colonel N J Holland (late REME), 1.6.98; R A Wright (late R Signals), 5.6.98.  
Royal Air Force  
Retirements  
Air Commodore B C Laite, 4.6.98  
Group Captain F S Rance, 2.6.98

### University news

**Cambridge**  
Queens' College  
The following have been elected into honorary fellowships at Queens' College, Cambridge:  
Mr Aubrey S. Eban, MA  
Mr C Michael Foale, MA, PhD

### Canterbury Cathedral

Brigadier John Meardon, RM, has been appointed fellowships at Canterbury Cathedral from June 1 in succession to Rear-Admiral David Macey.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

### PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

### DEATHS

**APRISTE - Henry** died peacefully in hospital in his 94th year on 27th May. He was born in 1892. He was a member of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the Royal Air Force.

**BIRTHS**  
EATON TURNER - On 14th April 1988 in London, to Sian and David, twin sons, Thomas Kristian and Alexander Henry.

**GRAND-ROSWELL** - On May 21st in Bergey, France at 4.45 pm to Nadine and Nigel, the gift of a daughter, Eleanor.

**HARDISTY** - On May 10th in Portland Oregon, to Rachel (née Dunlop) and David, a daughter, Kaitlin Ann, to the delight of her brother Rob.

**JACKSON** - On Wednesday 26th May 1988 to Elaine (née Watson) and Stephen, a daughter, Philippa May.

**RANSOM** - On 27th May, to Sarah (née Rees) and Kevin, a son, Charles William Bradley.

**RILEY** - On Monday, 27th April 1988 at the Royal Free, Hampstead to Karen (née Vasey) and Jeremy, a gorgeous baby boy, Sam. A dream come true.

**SHAW** - London 27th May, to George and Karen, a son, George Bartram.

**WILSON** - On Monday, May 25th 1988, to Claire (née Wintle) and Lucas, a daughter, Lucy Ella, a little sister for Hannah.

### COURT & SOCIAL

**PORTUGUESE MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES**  
The following marriages were solemnized by the Hon. Mr. Justice Goff at the High Court, London, on 27th May 1988.

**MARRIAGES**  
Amanda Louise Vasey and Jeremy Wintle, both of London, by Rev. Canon J. H. G. Goff, M.A., at 11.30 a.m. on 27th May 1988.

**MARRIAGES**  
Amanda Louise Vasey and Jeremy Wintle, both of London, by Rev. Canon J. H. G. Goff, M.A., at 11.30 a.m. on 27th May 1988.

### DAVIES - Enoch John

Enoch John Davies, 84, died peacefully in hospital on 27th May 1988. He was born in 1904. He was a member of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the Royal Air Force.

### OSBORNE - Jean

Jean Osborne, 71, died peacefully in hospital on 27th May 1988. She was born in 1917. She was a member of the Royal Air Force. She was a member of the Royal Air Force. She was a member of the Royal Air Force.

### REYNOLDS - Michael

Michael Reynolds, 58, died peacefully in hospital on 27th May 1988. He was born in 1930. He was a member of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the Royal Air Force.

### OSBORNE - Jean

Jean Osborne, 71, died peacefully in hospital on 27th May 1988. She was born in 1917. She was a member of the Royal Air Force. She was a member of the Royal Air Force. She was a member of the Royal Air Force.

### RUSHTON - Henry

Henry Rushton, 84, died peacefully in hospital on 27th May 1988. He was born in 1904. He was a member of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the Royal Air Force.

### STOOP - Beverly Ann

Beverly Ann Stoop, 58, died peacefully in hospital on 27th May 1988. She was born in 1930. She was a member of the Royal Air Force. She was a member of the Royal Air Force. She was a member of the Royal Air Force.

### TARLTON - Miss

Miss Tarlton, 71, died peacefully in hospital on 27th May 1988. She was born in 1917. She was a member of the Royal Air Force. She was a member of the Royal Air Force. She was a member of the Royal Air Force.

### 75 is no age to be leaving home.

Rukba helps elderly people on their homes and their independence. For further information, contact: RUKBA, 4th Floor, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0JF. Tel: 01-479 5113. Fax: 01-479 5114.

### ESTATE OF VERA IREN RESCOBY DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Vera Iren Rescoby, deceased, is being administered by the Executors, Messrs. J. H. Goff, M.A., and J. H. Goff, M.A., of the High Court, London. Any claims against the estate should be presented to the Executors at their offices, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0JF, by 31st May 1988.



OBITUARIES

BARRY GOLDWATER

Barry Goldwater, US Senator, 1953-64 and 1969-77, and Republican presidential candidate in 1964, died yesterday aged 89. He was born in Phoenix, Arizona, on January 1, 1909.

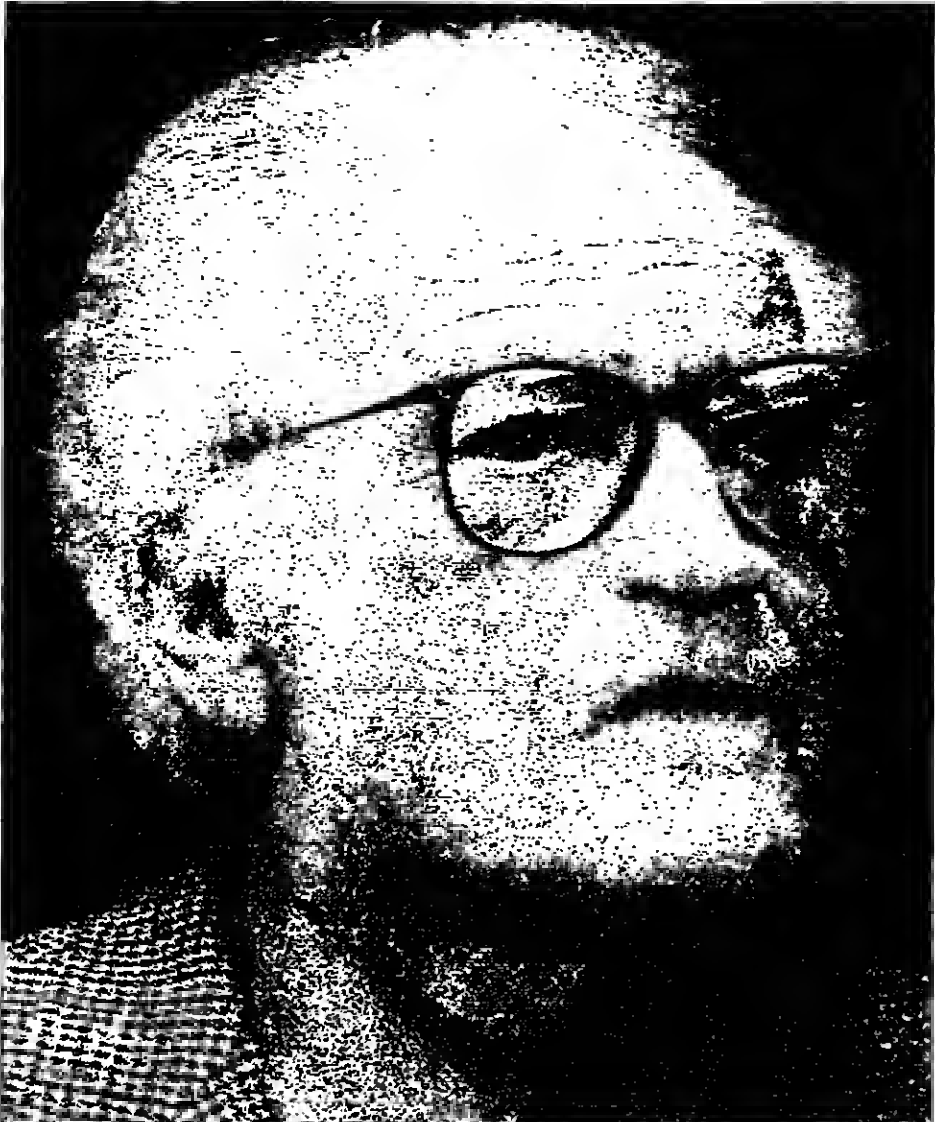
Barry Goldwater lived long enough to become an American icon. He was forgiven much that would not have been tolerated in others. Even when he came to the aid of President Clinton over the Whitewater affair...

There was an air of vulnerable innocence about Goldwater's politics. He was no demagogue, but rather a man captivated by the mythology of his country. To him the United States was still a land of wide open spaces, inhabited by rugged individualists...

He proclaimed himself opposed to government interference in the life of individuals, in favour of free enterprise and lower taxes, and the achievement of "total victory" over communism.

It was a philosophy destined to appeal to voters in the Western states, for years aggrieved at the political dominance of the East Coast, and Goldwater's "sundered" electoral strategy was very similar to that later employed by Ronald Reagan. Unfortunately for the Republicans in 1964, it also attracted some very dubious right-wing fanatics...

Goldwater was one of only 22 senators to vote against the centre of the red-baiting Joe McCarthy in 1954, calling him a leader in the fight against communism, and he was himself sufficiently antagonistic to the Soviet Union to call for the ending of diplomatic relations.



Barry Goldwater, icon of American conservatism, pictured in January 1995

party's leading fundraiser, and among those nominated to be the Republicans' standard-bearer. But he withdrew in favour of Richard Nixon, making an appeal for party unity. It was in 1964, after the formation of a "Draft Goldwater" movement, that he finally decided to throw his hat into the ring and make a run for the White House.

Extremism in defence of liberty is no vice," he rousing declared in his acceptance speech. "Moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

Goldwater found himself at the head of a party bitterly divided between its conservative and moderate wings, and tagged with the label of being a trigger-happy warmonger (he had once said "Let's lob one into the men's room in the Kremlin").

ANNE GRAHAME JOHNSTONE



The twins in their studio. Anne (seated) specialised in drawing costume while Janet did the animals

ANNE GRAHAME JOHNSTONE

Anne Grahame Johnstone, artist and illustrator, died of cancer on May 25 aged 69. She was born on June 1, 1928, with Janet, her twin.

Janet and Anne Grahame Johnstone illustrated more than a hundred books, which included classic fairytales by Hans Christian Andersen, the Brothers Grimm, J.M. Barrie, Charles Kingsley, a series from the Bible, as well as legends from Greece and Rome and many collected rhymes and modern stories.

They drew with a strong line, and their use of colour was generally restrained rather than garish, but the drawings had a tendency to the sentimental — which was perhaps exactly what was wanted by publishers trying to reach a mass market through outlets other than just bookshops.

signed to fit around or inside the text. Janet and Anne were daughters of the distinguished stage designer and portrait painter Doris Zinkeisen and her husband, Captain Grahame Johnstone.

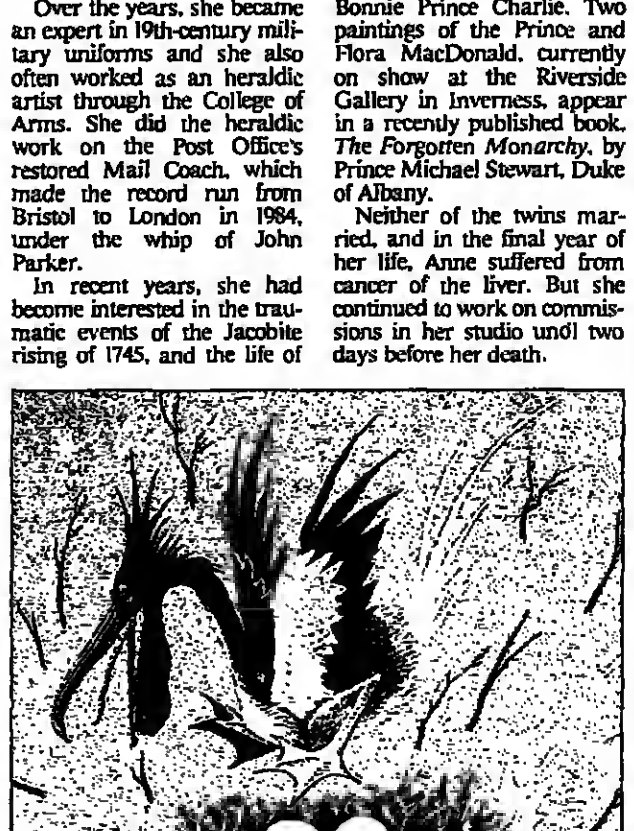
During the formative years of children's television, the twins produced a considerable amount of artwork for programmes including *Tai Lu*, *Andy Panda* and *The Flower Pot Men* — prime viewing for children of the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1956, Dottie Smith, who was already a very successful playwright and author, invited them to illustrate her first children's book, *The Hundred and One Dalmatians*.

Over the years, she became an expert in 19th-century military uniforms and she also often worked as an heraldic artist through the College of Arms.

In recent years, she had become interested in the traumatic events of the Jacobite rising of 1745, and the life of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Two paintings of the Prince and Flora MacDonald, currently on show at the Riverside Gallery in Inverness, appear in a recently published book, *The Forgotten Monarchy*, by Prince Michael Stewart, Duke of Albany.

Neither of the twins married, and in the final year of her life, Anne suffered from cancer of the liver. But she continued to work on commissions in her studio until two days before her death.



Illustrations from an abridged edition of Barrie's Peter Pan, published by Award in 1988

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS
It's very clear
Our love is still here to stay
This for a year
but love and a day.
H.G.

FOR SALE
A beautiful 1997...
YOUNG, FERRARI, alpha, limestone...
FLATSHARE
FLATSHARE (See 1970) If you want the best...
LEGAL NOTICES

FLATSHARE
PROF person, spacious flat, gas...
WANTED
BOOKS WANTED
TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL AVAILABLE...
ANTIQUES
Antiques Television Programme

GIFTS
A BRILLIANT Newspaper...
PUBLIC NOTICES
The Trustees of the Northborough...
LEGAL NOTICES
Noticed to hereby give notice...
TRUSTEE ACTS
NOTICE is hereby given...
ESTATE OF VERA IRENE BESCOBY DECEASED
Anyone with any information concerning the following individuals or their children, parents or other next of kin is requested to immediately contact the office of Courts Case Ingrams...

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at 2.30pm on 8 June 1998 at the County Council Hall 13-22 Pioneer Road, Hove, Brighton BN1 2JA.

1. Vera Irene Bescooby (nee Mills) born January 8, 1910 and deceased May 17, 1984 in the City of Toronto in the Province of Ontario.
2. Mary Ann Elizabeth Mills also known as Mary Ann Elizabeth Hill born December 24, 1867 in the District of Poplar, County of Middlesex.
3. Arthur Mills born April 4, 1877 in the District of Greenwich, County of Kent.
4. Alice Stokes also known as Alice Mills born December 21, 1907, County of Kent and died February 10, 1950 in the City of Toronto, Province of Ontario.
5. Mary Mills born July 16, 1914 in the City of London, England.
6. Robert George Mills born March 30, 1903, District of Greenwich, County of London.

Urgently seeks articles & collectables enthusiasts to take part in exciting new show. Would you like to play a game of antique detective work, alongside well-known expert Eric Knowles and take home a prize Antique at the end? Please call Cheryl on 0171 462 9503 for further details.

TRUSTEE ACTS
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at 2.30pm on 8 June 1998 at the County Council Hall 13-22 Pioneer Road, Hove, Brighton BN1 2JA.

MILESTONES

Telford Taylor, American lawyer and writer, died on May 23 aged 90. He was born on February 28, 1908. Two generations of Americans looked to Telford Taylor as to no other lawyer for liberal comment on public affairs, from the Nuremberg trials — in which he gave the opening argument against the Nazi doctors — to McCarthyism and the Vietnam War. He joined the Roosevelt Administration in 1933, and helped to struc-



ture the New Deal. During the war he led the American team at Blechley Park. A historian as well as a lawyer, he later taught at Harvard, and attempted to use legal means to prevent Soviet imprisonment of Jews. Obituary published on May 25.

Vice-Admiral Sir Ernle Pope, KCB, Commander Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe, 1974-76, died on May 21 aged 76. He was born on May 22, 1921. As a young lieutenant, Ernle Pope suffered the rare distinction of being sunk twice in one day. In



May 1942 off Malta, German bombers sank his destroyer, *Lively*, and then the *Kipling*, which had picked up survivors. Previously, as part of Force K, *Lively* had worked heroically escorting convoys. Later in the war, Pope — a lifelong naval man — served in the Far East. He was twice mentioned in dispatches. After retirement he devoted many years to the running of the Royal Naval Association. Obituary published on May 28.

John Lane, radio producer, died on May 13 aged 82. He was born on January 3, 1916. In his six years with *Children's Hour* in the 1950s, John Lane made 59 outside broadcasts — from the Festival of Britain, trains, planes, circuses and the Monte Carlo Rally. There was even a programme from on board the aircraft carrier *HMS Bulwark*. He later said that he hoped he had begun on radio the kind of mind-expanding broadcasting that was taken up on television by *Blue Peter*. Obituary published on May 26.

Professor C. H. Whiteley, philosopher, died on May 19 aged 86. He was born on August 6, 1911. For more than half a century, C. H. Whiteley mounted common-sense arguments against more flashy or contrary philosophers. In *Mind in Action* — for instance, he argued against both those who think of mind as merely material and against those who think that mind and matter are entirely separate. Whiteley's clarity, logic, courtesy and intellectual integrity were exemplary. His *Introduction to Metaphysics* remains, after 50 years, one of the best texts for the novice. Obituary published on May 26.









ANALYSIS 30 Russia needs IMF approval more than cash

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY MAY 30 1998

Unigate calls off bitter battle for rival

By Robert Cole City Correspondent

THE £1.6 BILLION on-off bid by Unigate, the food group, for rival Hillsdown Holdings was finally called off yesterday in acrimony.

Accusations flew as Hillsdown laid blame for the collapse of the deal squarely with Unigate, and Unigate sought to justify its actions.

A Hillsdown adviser said: "Unigate has behaved with extraordinary incompetence." The source said Unigate had "pussy-footed around" and had been "shambolic" in its negotiations.

There had been four approaches by Unigate. First contact was made in August, more serious negotiations came in February, then there were further discussions this month and last month.

Hillsdown believed that Ian Martin, Unigate's chairman, and Ross Buckland, the chief executive, were divided on the wisdom of doing the deal, with Mr Martin being more enthusiastic than Mr Buckland.

These allegations were denied by Unigate. "Our management was united going into this and is united coming out. There is not a crack of daylight between them," a spokesman said.

Unigate said that it withdrew because due diligence examinations threw up concerns about the health of Hillsdown's business. "We felt we were unable to support Hillsdown's view on the prospects for the business," the spokesman said.

George Greener, the Hillsdown chief executive, stopped short of outright criticism but did say that he thought Unigate was not sufficiently committed to the deal.

Mr Greener said: "I am at a loss to understand why Unigate backed out. There was no sensible reason I could see why it did." Commenting on the nature of the negotiations he added: "It is not the way I would have done it."

The failure of the bid talks means Hillsdown will now proceed with the three-way demerger proposed earlier in the month. Mr Greener said the talks with Unigate had not distracted Hillsdown from its demerger preparations.

Shares in Hillsdown slumped by more than 10 per cent to 183p. Unigate, which had slipped by 90p this month as the bid story developed, jumped 28.5p to close at 665p.

Commentary, page 29



Sitting pretty: George Soros, who has made a big investment in the British commercial property sector, by ploughing £100 million into Delancey

Delancey boosted by £100m from Soros

By Richard Miles

GEORGE SOROS, the renowned speculator feared by central banks across the globe, has taken a large bet on the UK commercial property market by investing more than £100 million in Delancey Estates.

Delancey, a listed company formerly known as Artesian Estates, needs the cash injection to diversify out of residential property into more lucrative commercial and retail real estate.

In return, the Quantum Realty Fund and Tivadar, two of Mr Soros's investment vehicles, obtain two thirds of Delancey stock and the right to appoint two non-executive directors to its board.

Shares in Delancey, which started life as a Business Expansion Scheme, a defunct tax-efficient investment vehicle, leapt almost 50 per cent to 150p on the announcement. Several thousand private investors will have to approve the deal.

Delancey, which has a market capitalisation of just £25 million, intends to raise a further £28 million through a placing of shares and warrants. As a result, it should have total assets of about £150 million.

The firm has also agreed to buy Freehold Portfolio Estates, a company controlled by James Ritblat, son of John Ritblat, chairman and managing director of British Land. Mr Ritblat junior receives £4 million and becomes managing director of Delancey.

Prior to the deal, the biggest single shareholder in Delancey was James Ritblat with 26 per cent. Robert Fleming also owns a sizeable stake with the rest divided among institutions and private investors.

Colin Wagman, chairman of Delancey, said the deal would transform the firm's profile and rank it among the top quartile of UK quoted property companies.

Tempus, page 31

OrdTec directors sue Customs for £600,000

By Adam Jones

TWO of the businessmen involved in the disastrous arms-to-Iraq prosecutions pursued by the last Government are suing HM Customs and Excise for more than £600,000.

Paul Grecian was given a suspended prison sentence in 1992 for exporting an artillery fuse assembly line to Iraq via Jordan. Mr Grecian was managing director of Ordnance Technologies (OrdTec) and he pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy to export prohibited goods.

However, his suspended jail sentence was quashed after the landmark Matrix Churchill case, another arms-to-Iraq prosecution that collapsed, when it became clear that vital documents had been withheld from Mr Grecian's defence. His

father, John Grecian, 67, a fellow director of OrdTec, was also charged over the Iraq exports but no evidence was offered when the matter came to court.

Both men are now suing Customs and Excise. John Grecian is claiming damages of more than £500,000 for alleged malicious prosecution. This covers loss of earnings, disruption of family life and damage to reputation and allows for aggravated and exemplary damages. These are often claimed in cases where oppressive, malicious or particularly humiliating factors are alleged.

John Grecian claimed yesterday that he had been charged simply to put pressure on his son to plead guilty at his own trial. He claimed OrdTec had not known initially that

the fuse assembly would be passed on to Iraq from Jordan. When it became clear, he insisted that there was an official culture of tacit approval.

John Grecian said both he and his son had been bankrupted by the effects of the Customs and Excise prosecutions. He added that it had placed a strain on his marriage and led to his son's divorce.

Paul Grecian is already pursuing a claim for substantially more than £500,000 through a Home Office compensation scheme, an avenue not open to his father. His writ against Customs and Excise, which claims he suffered psychological and other damage, aims to secure a further £100,000 or more in damages.

The writ claims Paul Grecian pleaded guilty at his trial in 1992 only after Andrew Collins, QC, the prosecution counsel, said the prosecution would otherwise reveal that he provided information to British intelligence about the IRA and the PLO, endangering his

safety. The official Scott report into defence exports to Iraq recorded that Paul Grecian had provided information to British intelligence officers over Iraqi arms buying.

His writ against Customs also says his guilty plea was made only after unsuccessful attempts to obtain key documents that later became a part of the Scott report. The writ claims these were either deliberately suppressed or Customs made no sincere attempt to get them. It also says Customs was well aware of the suppression of documents when it opposed his appeal.

Paul Grecian also claims that the prosecution said no evidence would be offered against his father if he pleaded guilty at the original trial. Customs and Excise would not comment yesterday.

Tempus, page 31

Premier League turns down BSKyB's pay-per-view plan

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

A FAILURE to agree on the split of revenues was behind the surprise decision by the 20 Premier League clubs to turn down BSKyB's proposals for pay-per-view televising of English football. Had a deal been agreed, pay-per-view could have started in October.

The clubs want 60 per cent of all revenues from pay-per-view football, with the rest going to BSKyB, in which News International, owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake.

BSKyB proposed that it

would pay the £20 million cost of setting up pay-per-view and that after that the two sides would share the revenues 50-50. Such a split is common in pay-per-view rights.

Peter Leaver, chief executive of Premier League, said yesterday: "We want to develop broadcasting arrangements which strike the right balance and secure the right future for English football."

Apart from proposing a 50-50 revenue split BSKyB set out two possible forms of experi-

ment - four pay-per-view games on a Saturday or four on a Sunday.

BSKyB executives believe that yesterday's vote is much more a "proceed with negotiations" rather than a final "no" and that agreement could still be reached in time for some pay-per-view next season.

Pay-per-view would provide extra revenue for Premier League clubs from games that would not otherwise be televised. BSKyB shares closed down 9p at 431p.

PW and C&L choose name

PRICE Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand have played safe over the name of their merged organisation choosing Pricewaterhouse-Coopers (Robert Bruce writes).

The firm said yesterday: "It was critically important to preserve the substantial equity and value associated with the names Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand."

There had been speculation that the name originally preferred, Price Waterhouse & Co, was vetoed by Coopers.

Diary, page 30

IMF lifeline for Russian markets

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

THE Russian Government yesterday unveiled a series of reform measures in an effort to plug gaps in its Budget plans. The rouble again held firm at 6.1380 although the Russian Central Bank was forced to keep interest rates at 150 per cent.

Shares in Moscow closed 3.75 per cent lower after Moody's, the international credit agency, downgraded Russia's sovereign debt levels.

Approval sought, page 30

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

Table with columns for Index Name, Value, and Change. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei, Dow Jones, S&P Composite, US Rate, Federal Funds, Long Bond, and Yield.

US RATE

Table with columns for Instrument, Rate, and Yield. Includes Federal Funds, Long Bond, and Yield.

LONDON BOURSE

Table with columns for Instrument, Rate, and Yield. Includes 3-month Interbank, Life long gilt, and Future (Jun).

STERLING

Table with columns for Location, Rate, and Yield. Includes New York, London, DM, FF, SF, Yen, and £ Index.

YEN

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Table with columns for Location, Rate, and Yield. Includes London, DM, FF, SF, Yen, and £ Index.

There were some people that tortured me, but there were some people who were a bandage to my wounds. (Vedran, displaced person.)

AFTER THE FIGHTING IS OVER, Larry Hollingworth, former Chief of Operations for the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, returns to Bosnia. He visits the many women and children who became his friends and talks to them about their past tragedies and future hopes. Tuesday mornings from 7 June, 11.02 - 11.30.

BBC RADIO 4 92.95pm & 198LW YOU'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.



Journey to market follows big order for high-speed tilting trains

# Branson aims to float Virgin Rail



Richard Branson has promised to improve Virgin's service

RICHARD BRANSON is poised to press ahead with a swift flotation of his Virgin Trains business as he moves to capitalise on a recent performance improvement. A crucial hurdle blocking the £250 million float is expected to be cleared next week and Mr Branson will move quickly to end long-running speculation by making a firm announcement within a fortnight. John Swift, the rail regulator, is expected to give final approval to a revenue-sharing deal between Virgin and Railtrack, the track and signalling company, to improve the West Coast mainline between London and Glasgow. Mr Swift, who demanded assurances from Virgin about further service improvements, particularly to Glasgow and North Wales, is understood to

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

be satisfied with arrangements made. His approval will clear the way for Mr Branson to take one of his companies on to the market for the first time since he withdrew the Virgin name from the Stock Exchange in 1987. The head of Virgin is understood to have been persuaded by fellow investors that he should seize the moment for a flotation as quickly as possible, probably in July. Mr Branson has been buoyed by recent improvements in the punctuality of the West Coast service, which, he said, reached 90 per cent for the first time last month. The service, which was one of the worst-performing routes under British Rail, is about to have more than £2 billion spent on track improvements and on a new fleet of tilting

trains capable of travelling at 140mph. City confidence in the transport sector has been shown in recent weeks with steep rises in share prices for the leading rail and bus companies. The upward trend comes amid the expectation that John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is to unveil a raft of measures aimed at encouraging motorists to stop using their cars and switch to public transport. Virgin's West Coast service has seen a 13 per cent increase in the number of passengers over its first year in private hands, while the Cross Country route from Aberdeen to Penzance has also shown an 11 per cent rise in numbers. Mr Branson returned to England last night after making his first journey on the type of tilting train to be

introduced on the West Coast line. His four-hour journey from Turin in northern Italy to Rome, was his first experience of the trains which are now common across much of Europe and which allow much higher speeds. Earlier this year Virgin announced an order worth £1 billion for 54 high-speed tilting trains for its West Coast mainline from a consortium of GEC-Alsthom and Fiat Ferroviaria. Virgin said the contract was expected to be worth about £500 million for the capital cost of the trains with a further £500 million for in-service maintenance and support. In a separate order Virgin chose Bombardier of Canada to build and maintain a new fleet of 77 trains, including 43 tilting trains for its Cross Country regional network.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Sharp fall in imports narrows trade deficit

BRITAIN'S trade gap with the rest of the world narrowed in March after a sharp drop in imports. The whole world trade and services deficit totalled £1.02 billion compared with £1.59 billion in February. The April non-EU country deficit also closed from £1.02 billion to £715 million. Economists, however, predicted that the gap is set to widen again in coming months saying the improved performance was simply due to a surprise drop in imports. Import volumes declined by 1.2 per cent compared with a 0.2 per cent fall in exports during March, the widest quarter as a whole, the deficit stood at £4.7 billion, the widest for eight years. Overall export volumes fell by 0.5 per cent in the three months to March providing evidence of the damage wreaked by the strong pound. Non-EU country export volumes, however, slid 2.4 per cent in the three months to April suggesting the Asian crisis is hampering exports.

### Edinburgh Inca slides

EDINBURGH INCA TRUST, an investment trust focusing on Latin America, yesterday blamed the knock-on effect of the Asian economic crisis for a 14 per cent decline of its assets. The trust's net assets fell from £34.7 million to £29.8 million in the six months to March 31 while its share price slid 9.2 per cent. The trust did, however, beat the IFC Latin American Investibles index, down 16.6 per cent. The trust said its out-performance reflected its move away from smaller companies to blue chips in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico.

### Wagner's windfall

DAN WAGNER, the 34-year-old chief executive of Dialog Corporation, enjoyed a 43 per cent pay rise last year after merging his MAID database firm with Knight-Ridder Information to create one of the world's largest online information firms. Mr Wagner picked up a £60,000 bonus that took his pay for 1997 to £199,510. Mr Wagner owns 17 million shares in the enlarged company — worth £24.3 million. Although the company did not pay a dividend last year, it is expected to make a 2p payout for 1998.

### Millwall's losses ease

MILLWALL, the quoted football club, suffered a loss of £94,000 in the year to the end of last November, an improvement from the £3.3 million loss in the 12 months to the end of May 1996. Losses per share fell from 0.85p to 0.01. Sales rose from £4 million to £5 million. Theo Paphitis, the Millwall Holdings chairman, said the results cannot be compared with those of a normal accounting period as they cover an 18-month period and include eight months pre-administration trading and other administration costs. City Diary, page 30

### Nissan chief investigated

JAPAN'S securities watchdog yesterday filed a complaint against a former managing director of Nissan Motor for suspected insider trading, according to government sources. The Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission filed the complaint with the Yokohama regional court on suspicion that Kenji Sawamura purchased 10,000 shares in Nissan's car parts affiliate, Tosok Corp, under his wife's name after obtaining privileged information on the firm's tie-up with Nidec Corp, an electric motor manufacturer.

### Wiggins in airline deal

WIGGINS, the property development company, is to set up a civilian airline operation at Manston Airport in Kent which the group took over last year. The company will run a series of charter and freight flights from Manston with Air Atlanta Icelandic. The two will also build an aircraft maintenance centre and a training centre. Air Atlanta's move to Manston is planned to begin in July, with the relationship likely to last for at least 20 years. Wiggins shares rose from 12½ p to 14p.

### RCO shares tumble

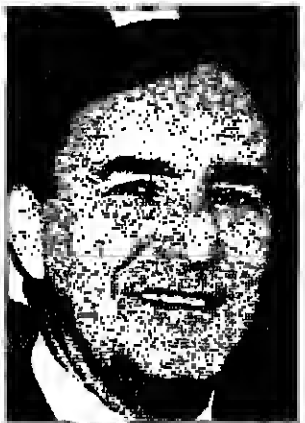
SHARES in RCO, the business support services group, plunged from 238½ p to 165p, a five-year low, after the company cut its first-half dividend from 4.95p to 4.00p on the basis that it was "time to bring the dividend into line with the profitability of the business". Earnings fell from 3.62p to 1.39p in the 26 weeks to April 3 out of pre-tax profits down from £571,000 to £215,000 after an increase in exceptional items from £76,000 to £493,000.

## Longhurst joins as United Assurance appoints top team

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

ANDREW LONGHURST, the Lloyds TSB director who was a surprise casualty of a boardroom reshuffle, is to become the new chairman and non-executive director of United Assurance, the troubled insurance company. Shares jumped 37½ p to 61p as United Assurance also revealed that its new group chief executive will be Alan Frost, currently managing director of Abbey Life. Mr Frost, 53, will take up the appointment on July 1. He said his priority would be to increase sales growth. Revenues from sales have been lacklustre since United Assurance was formed from the merger of United Friendly and Refuge Assurance more than 18 months ago. He said: "I will be looking hard at products and at costs."

Cudworth retires at the end of October. Mr Cudworth said: "I am confident that Andrew and Alan have an excellent platform from which to develop and expand the business." Analysts welcomed the appointments but remained cautious in their forecasts for the company's earnings. One said: "There is a lot of work to do and we cannot recommend the share until we see some evidence of a turnaround." Mr Longhurst's compensation payment, believed to be about £90,000, will be disclosed in next year's Lloyds TSB annual report. He will become United's chairman-designate on Monday.



Longhurst: to be chairman

## American investors put faith in mutuals

From OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN private investors have poured \$5 trillion (£3 trillion) into mutual funds, marking a new milestone for America's shareholder democracy. Statistically, every American now has a \$20,000 stake in the world economy through at least one of the funds. The money invested in funds has grown by 10 per cent since the end of last year, which helped to power the Dow Jones industrial average to new heights.

The unprecedented soaring of American share prices over the past seven years has been partly triggered by the influx of funds from small investors. In 1991, when stocks began to soar after the 1987 and 1989 global market crashes, US investors had \$1.1 trillion in funds. In 1992, at the start of the roaring 1990s rally, mutual funds held as little as \$300 billion. According to the Investment Fund Institute, April saw the third-largest ever monthly influx of money, \$26 billion. This is giving Wall Street hope that the Dow will be driven up further even as earnings growth slows down. But the influx of new investors has also worried some stock market watchers. They fear these inexperienced investors are more prone to panic attacks, raising the spectre of a sudden market crash. A moderate market drop, similar to one that could be caused by an increase in American interest rates ordered by the Federal Reserve, the country's central bank, could trigger a mass withdrawal from funds.

## Metsec agrees to £41m Austrian bid

By OUR CITY STAFF

METSEC, the engineering group, yesterday agreed to a £41.5 million, 26½ p-a-share bid from Voest-Alpine Stahl, the Austrian steel group. Metsec shares strengthened from 225½ to 255½ p on the news, up from the 180p level prevailing on May 5 before bid talks were disclosed. The Austrian company has received acceptances already for 44 per cent of the shares, including the 23 per cent held by the Birmingham based company's managers. Metsec, which also has works in Coventry, Cologne and Cracow, employs 500 people and produces 80,000 tonnes of steel a year. Metsec and Voest-Alpine together will have a combined staff of 1,800 and will produce some 450,000 tonnes a year of steel

tubes and sections. Voest-Alpine Stahl said the British company would continue to act independently. The Austrian group expects that within the first full year of ownership, before taking into account any synergies and before amortization of goodwill, the acquisition of Metsec will be earnings enhancing. Metsec shareholders are entitled to a final dividend of 3½ p for the year to December 31. Voest-Alpine said the acquisition would broaden its building products range, especially in the use of steel in commercial and industrial construction. Wolfgang Spreitzer, managing director of Voest-Alpine, said the acquisition of Metsec represented another step in the group's strategy of international expansion.

## Capita wins preferred bidder status

CAPITA, the business support services group, has been chosen by the Department of Transport, Environment and the Regions as preferred bidder to develop Constructionline, the public sector construction industry procurement service (Our City Staff writes). It is a seven-year concession with anticipated revenues of more than £40 million. Constructionline is a database of firms assessed for their financial and technical capabilities, used by public sector bodies to identify potential partners for construction services. Capita will invest £700,000 in developing the service.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.70	2.59
Austria S	21.48	19.80
Belgium F	63.20	58.24
Canada C	2.496	2.308
Cyprus Cyp	0.859	0.828
Denmark Kr	11.87	10.78
Finland M	8.39	8.44
France F	10.22	9.84
Germany Dm	3.07	2.83
Greece Dr	322	483
Hong Kong \$	13.46	12.28
Iceland	129	112
Ireland	1.21	1.12
Israel Sh	8.54	5.69
Italy Lit	3042	2805
Japan Yen	240.70	223.11
Malta	0.675	0.619
Netherlands Gld	3.468	3.173
New Zealand \$	3.19	2.95
Norway Kr	12.89	11.95
Portugal Esc	310.40	286.97
S Africa Rd	8.10	8.14
Spain Pta	258.64	239.85
Sweden Kr	13.60	12.50
Switzerland Fr	2.57	2.35
Turkey Lira	400791	400913
USA \$	1.757	1.594

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

Historically, the Duke of Westminster has kept his financial interests behind a veil of secrecy but his plans to expand abroad require greater transparency and The Sunday Times has gained access to details of the interests that make up Britain's top property fortune... Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow

## Japanese culture of jobs for life undermined by economic woes

From ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S unemployment rate passed the 4 per cent mark for the first time in April. Government and business leaders warned the nation that it faced its worst jobs outlook in decades, shaking the traditional culture of a job for life in return for unstinting dedication to one's employer. Bankruptcies rose and manufacturers shed staff in a drive to cut costs. The jobless total reached 2.9 million, up 25.5 per cent on a year ago, underscoring the Government's failure to halt the economic slide of the past 12 months. The jobless rate — now 4.1 per cent — was especially high among the younger and older age groups. For men aged 60 to 64,



Hashimoto: promised action

unemployment soared 4.2 percentage points to 12.1 per cent, exacerbated by "involuntary early retirement", said the Labour Ministry. The shake-out of unproduc-

tive labour may be a necessary, if painful, step towards boosting corporate profits and generating growth, but in the short term, fears about job security may make people more reluctant to spend, further depressing domestic demand and forcing firms to reduce output and shed more workers in a vicious spiral. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, promised action, announcing that the cabinet would meet next week to discuss ways to alleviate the situation. There were warnings that unemployment in Japan would continue to deteriorate, and surpass that of the US, where the April jobless rate was 4.3 per cent. Earlier this year British unemployment fell below 5 per cent, its lowest for 18 years.

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# A mutual field of dreams



## COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

A funny old week for mutuals. Nationwide Building Society admitted that it was worried lest rebels trying to convert it from mutual to plc status could triumph this year in some horrible night of the carpetbaggers. In the City, Peter Morgan, chairman of the fiercely mutual National Provident Institution, was faced at its annual meeting with angry policyholders demanding their share of a putative £1.5 billion conversion. This windfall might compensate them for the recent under-performance of NPI funds, the inevitable result of taking a cautious line in a bull market that has endured far longer than so many of us expected.

Fear not, however. In Bourne-mouth the much-shrunken Building Societies Association held its annual conference in circumstances where toasts to absent friends could easily end up as a pub crawl. But delegates were fortified in a more uplifting way by the words of Frank Field, the Social Security Minister and would-be architect of the new welfare state.

"It would be hard to underestimate the contribution that mutual institutions have made to the United Kingdom over the past 250 years," Mr Field's speech read. Fortunately, for those present, he meant the opposite.

People have lost confidence in both the State and the financial services industry as competent providers in time of need, he

argued "or as trustworthy guardians of savings and investment". Mr Field argued that individuals could take control of their own affairs to insure against sickness and unemployment, and to smooth income over their lifetime, which means pensions. But "handing welfare services over to the private sector would be unacceptable". Mutual institutions, which include building societies, trade unions, friendly societies and co-operatives, should fill the gap.

Mr Field is not to be criticised. He symbolises the sacred third way. But if this is what he thinks, then government policy on welfare and stakeholder pensions is in as big a mess as ever.

Nostalgia for friendly societies produced one of the many oddities of the individual savings account. The idea that only mutual organisations can be trusted with stakeholder pensions — especially if Tony Blair mistakenly backs compulsion — is daft. Organisations such as trade unions can be umbrellas for group pensions, but these are sensibly bought from commercial providers, mutual or no.

By extension, this must also be true of any insurance element of

welfare. Mr Field seems to think that small mutual organisations truly responsible to their members can work more flexibly and more humanely. But building societies are no longer groups of yeomen meeting in Birmingham upper rooms. Nor are they likely to return to those days.

Mutuals can have a strong part to play, but only if their status results in their members getting a better deal. Nostalgia will not bring the new Jerusalem.

that the draft press release had been prepared.

The answer is that the Unigate team eventually got sight of the current trading picture at Hillsdown and their enthusiasm for the deal instantly evaporated. It is hard to imagine what scared them so, since only a couple of weeks ago Hillsdown was telling its shareholders that there had been "a positive start to the year". There was a blithe assurance that "current trading is in line with expectations". That hackneyed phrase does beg the vital question as to what those expectations might be and, on Hillsdown's recent record, they should not have been too jolly. Yet it would seem that the figures which were prised out of Sir John Nott's grasp were not exactly what the Unigate team had been expecting.

Whether Martin and Buckland were unreasonable in their expectations will only become apparent when Hillsdown has to lay bare its trading news for all to see. If at that stage the stock market echoes Unigate's reaction, then chairman Sir John Nott and his advisers may find themselves with a little explaining to do.

Yesterday, the Hillsdown camp was brushing aside any aspersions on its business and trying instead to cast doubt on Unigate's ability to carry through the deal. But, while some investors had been wary of buying the motley bag of businesses that is Hillsdown, Martin and Buckland had the underwriting and banking lined up. They had had plenty of time to get to examine the company and its components and, to the surprise, and dismay of some investors, were still insisting that Unigate would enjoy an instant earnings enhancement from buying the company. Until that late night surprise.

The negotiations had not been easy. Having lost his incumbent finance director last month,

when Hillsdown announced its complicated demerger plans, and with chief executive George Greener working out his notice, it fell largely to the irascible Sir John Nott to do the deal. There had always seemed a possibility that he would repeat his famous television performance and walk off the set. It may have been less worrying had he done so.

### Blank looks at Mirror

Next week should bring confirmation that Victor Blank is to be the next chairman of Mirror Group. The seasoned deal-doer, until recently chairman of Charterhouse Bank, is a fine choice to head up a business being sized up by potential bidders.

Blank was instrumental in the ground-breaking bid that turned the moribund Woolworths into today's Kingfisher and made his fortune in the process. If Mirror Group is to lose its independence, Blank could be relied upon to ensure that it only does so at a good price. But he may not be heading to Canary Wharf with the intention of a short but profitable reign. Whether or not

David Montgomery has tired of the struggle over deciding where Mirror should go next, Blank is likely to have plans for presiding over an expanding media group, not just negotiating a quick sale.

Axel Springer's tantalising admission that it is considering a bid for Mirror shows no rush in progressing towards an offer. The Takeover Panel may wait a few weeks before putting on the pressure. Yet Springer faces a quandary for the likelihood is that the company is not interested in long-term ownership of the group's regional papers. Selling those would almost certainly bring a Monopolies Commission inquiry.

Blank knows that, at the right price, Mirror shareholders, like any others, can be bought. He may have some intriguing ideas for persuading them that that price is higher than Mr Springer may care to risk.

### Not Baring up

ING may soon find a Dutch equivalent of the Yorkshire phrase "too pricey at now" to describe the purchase of Barings. The Dutch bought a firm with Far East expertise ahead of a Far East crisis, and with a team of rainmaking financiers who have just walked out. Now Arjun Mathrani, the chief executive, is resigning after only five months. If ING does not act fast all that may be left is a City building and some redundant Daimlers.

## Yorkshire Water sees debt grow on network spending

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

YORKSHIRE WATER saw its debt climb last year as the company, which became notorious in the 1995 drought for water shortages, pumped more cash into network improvements.

Its gearing rose from 30.4 per cent in 1997 to 40.4 per cent last year and Kevin Bond, managing director, said the level should rise to more than 60 per cent by 2000. He said: "We're conscious of the fact that we're going to have a significant number of additional commitments in capital spend between 2000 and 2005."

The company is now spending £1 million a day on developing its services and environmental standards. By 2000 it will have spent £1.8 billion on investment.

At the height of Yorkshire's

troubles three years ago the company was leaking more than a third of its water. The company would not reveal how much water still leaks from its pipes and reservoirs but said that it is ahead of targets set for it by the industry regulator, Ian Byatt.

Mr Byatt has set companies targets based on the number of megalitres that escape from the system, a move that has made companies reluctant to say how many megalitres are in the system.

Brandon Gough, the chairman who was brought into Yorkshire two years ago, said: "The regulated water business was able to demonstrate substantial improvements in levels of customer service, while achieving a satisfactory financial performance."



Bond: gearing will rise

Yorkshire's pre-tax profits slipped 4.7 per cent to £205.6 million for the year to March 31. It said that profits had been affected by a water conservation programme among domestic customers and by a rise in bills that was below the rate of inflation.

Earnings per share, adjusted for the effects of scrip dividend share issues and calculated without the windfall tax, climbed 6.1 per cent to 48.9p.

Shares in the company slipped because of the fall in profits and a lower-than-expected dividend. Yorkshire lifted its total dividend by 10 per cent to 20.35p while analysts had predicted the payout would be 20.5p to 21.4p. The final payment of 14.2p will be made on August 6.

Tempus, page 31

## Record for London Pride beer

THE nationwide advance of London Pride beer has generated record profits for Fuller, Smith & Turnbull, the restaurant and brewing group (Fraser Nelson writes).

New public-owned houses and agreements with national pub chains pushed sales of the beer up 14 per cent in the year to March 28, making it the group's star performer.

After opening more pubs and restaurants — including a Birmingham free house which sells more London Pride than anywhere else in the UK, underlying profits rose to £12.8 million (£11.6 million).

After £979,000 loss on property disposals, earnings were 35.4p (30.1p). A final dividend of 7.75p makes a total of 11.35p (10.03p).

## Sale windfall for Wise Speke chiefs

EXECUTIVES at Wise Speke, the Newcastle-based agency stockbroker, are set to pocket £11 million in bonus payments following its sale yesterday to Brewin Dolphin.

Brewin Dolphin, one of the UK's largest investment managers, is paying £24 million for Wise Speke. The deal is being financed through a £24.5 million share placement.

The bonuses, to be paid in Brewin Dolphin shares, are dependent on growth in revenues and discretionary funds under management over the next two to three years.

Yesterday's deal boosts funds under management at Brewin Dolphin by £2.5 billion to £12 billion.

John Hall, managing director of Brewin Dolphin, said the combination of the two businesses would result in annual cost savings of at least £1 million, largely through the implementation of a common systems platform.

Describing the regional broker as a "jewel", Mr Hall said he intended to retain the Wise Speke name, as Brewin Dolphin had done when it acquired Bell Lawrie, the Edinburgh-based investment manager and broker, in 1993.

Mr Hall added that the share placement would also improve liquidity in Brewin Dolphin shares, 48 per cent of which are currently owned by its management.

Ockham, the present owner of Wise Speke, will use the sale proceeds to expand its motor insurance business.

Nigel Sherlock, chief executive of Wise Speke, will become an executive director of Brewin Dolphin. Brewin's shares rose 20.5p to 390p on the news.

## Receivers called in at Hollas

HOLLAS, the textile group, asked its bankers to appoint administrative receivers yesterday (Our City Staff writes). The shares had earlier been suspended at 24p, an all-time low.

Ian Powell and Steven Pearson of Price Waterhouse were appointed as receivers. Two Hollas subsidiaries, Edward MacBean and Hollas Hosiery, are also going into receivership.

All the other subsidiaries were said to be operating normally, including Textilion and Hollas Garments.

For the last year that results were available Hollas turned in a loss of £1.5 million on sales of £97.7 million, a recovery from losses in the previous year of £8.7 million.

## Bae to form joint venture with French

BY ADAM JONES

BRITISH AEROSPACE is to form a joint venture with Dassault, the French aircraft industry, in a move partly designed to highlight the recent quickening of industry restructuring in France.

The companies already collaborate on research into fighter aircraft technology, having each signed a memorandum of understanding in 1995.

This loose alliance will now become a formal joint venture, registered in the UK and employing up to 80 engineers at Bae's site in Warton, Lancashire.

An industry source said it is not necessarily the case that this would mean the companies will now collaborate on a new-generation fighter jet, and Bae, through Eurofighter, are currently going head-to-head for government orders. This has been widely criticised as needless competition by advocates of a consolidated European aircraft industry and it is highly unlikely that it will happen again, given the pace of restructuring.

Bae and Dassault could share research on upgrades to Eurofighter and Rafale and there is scope for major collaboration on the possible replacement for the Tornado GR1 strike aircraft, which is unlikely to come into service until 2015 to 2020.



Lord Weinstock paid £5.16 million for shares in Mallett

## Mallett price lifted by Weinstock 29.9% stake

BY GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in Mallett, the antique furniture and art dealer, rose from 102.5p to 122.5p after the company disclosed that Lord Weinstock had acquired a 29.9 per cent stake in the company for £5.16 million.

Mallett told the stock market that Lord Weinstock had bought the shares from Harrods Holdings and that the former managing director of GEC regarded the investment as a long term stake.

The company said that Lord Weinstock had bought the 4.15 million shares at 125p each. Mallett said: "Lord Weinstock has been well known to the company for many years and the board of Mallett therefore welcomes him as a major shareholder."

Mallett caters for the top end of the antique market. Clients can spend up to £1 million on a single piece of furniture.

## Tring crisis deepens after SE censure

BY FRASER NELSON

THE crisis at Tring International deepened yesterday after the budget CD company was told by the London Stock Exchange that it violated listing rules by selling its main warehouse without consulting shareholders.

The company, whose shares are suspended at 64p, has been "publicly censured" — one of the Stock Exchange's harshest forms of rebuke — for pushing through the £1.6 million sale of its Aylesbury property.

Although Tring held an EGM in February to approve the disposal, the LSE pointed out that the unconditional sale was agreed a month earlier — making any vote meaningless.

Steven Porter, finance director, said: "When we agreed the disposal, we were under immense pressure from our banks. We were in a state of panic, and only later realised that we had broken the rules."

He added that the company's bank remains "very nervous" after its plans for a rescue fundraising were rejected three weeks ago.

He said: "We thought they would have an alternative idea, but they don't. The management have been left holding the baby."

The company is still trading, although it is having difficulty in securing anything on credit. The Stock Exchange does not intend to take any further action.

## Pattullo powerless over Knoydart

BY JASON NISSE

SIR BRUCE PATTULLO, in one of his last acts as Governor of the Bank of Scotland, yesterday said the bank could do nothing to stop Stephen Hinchliffe, the controversial Scottish businessman, taking over a famous Scottish estate.

The outgoing Governor, who handed over to Sir Alistair Grant at the end of yesterday's annual meeting in Edinburgh, was responding to protests by representatives of the residents of Knoydart, the West of Scotland estate.

They are angry about the takeover of Knoydart by Mr Hinchliffe and Christopher Harrison, an associate, both of whom are being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office and prosecuted by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The bank has lent £1.4 million to Knoydart Peninsular, the company that owns the estate and whose shares are now owned by a company controlled by Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Harrison.

Since taking control Mr Hinchliffe has sacked Ian Robertson, the estate manager, and has held a meeting with representatives of the 70 residents of the estate. Following that meeting the residents passed a vote of no confidence in their new laird.

Sir Bruce said he had received letters about the new twist to the saga but told shareholders: "There has been a transfer of shares in Knoydart Peninsular Limited. The bank was not consulted. Customer confidentiality means it is not appropriate for me to say any more." Sir Bruce said he and his wife had often been hillwalking at the estate staying in "the wee hotel" not the big house.

Other recent visitors to the estate include Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

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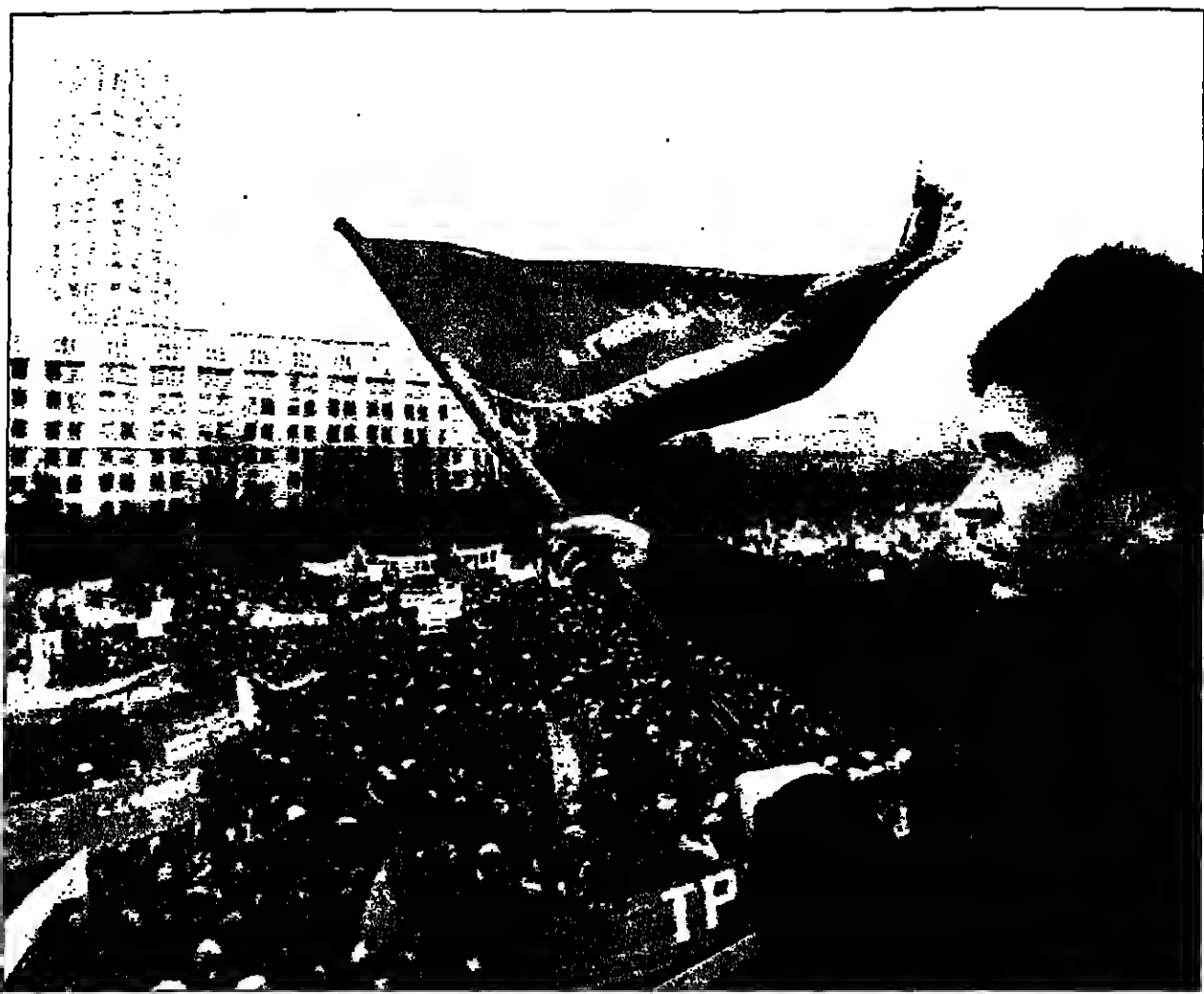


# Russia needs approval from IMF more than it needs the Fund's cash

# Off the rails

International rescue for Indonesia sets precedent for Moscow, says Janet Bush

A young Muscovite teacher called Alla last week professed herself flummoxed about the current turmoil in Russia's financial markets. "People talk about Indonesia but what has that got to do with us?" she asked a Reuters reporter who was out on the streets of Moscow to gauge popular concern. "Indonesia is a long way away."



Moscow's difficulties include mass protests by demonstrators complaining that their salaries have not been paid

Hubert Neides, the IMF's Asia Pacific director, was in Jakarta on Thursday to analyse whether Indonesia, a week after the toppling of President Suharto, is responsible enough for the Fund to resume payments under a \$41.2 billion (£25 billion) economic rescue package. Beyond that, he has to consider whether this substantial sum of money will be enough to stabilise confidence in Indonesia and allow it to start on the road to economic recovery.

shareholder, the Fund will be found willing to dip once more into its rapidly depleting reserves of cash. Both cases highlight the issue of moral hazard that has been most vociferously aired on Capitol Hill. Nationalist voices in both the Democratic and Republican parties have been blocking extra US funds to replenish IMF reserves, arguing that the American budget should not contribute to rescuing far-off countries that have mismanaged their affairs. Many argue that the very existence of the IMF and its bail-out billions is an incentive to bad behaviour.

events dictated an indiscriminate rescue. David Folkerts-Landau, former head of capital markets surveillance at the Fund, now head of emerging markets at Deutsche Bank, told *The Times* in February: "If the multilateral institutions and the G7 directly or indirectly support bail-out of private creditors in Indonesia, I would say that they have lost a very significant opportunity to impose discipline on the system."

ments to Indonesia, and on soft conditions, to reinforce a return to relative political stability. This brings us to Russia. Strange as it may seem to a Moscow teacher, recent events in Indonesia virtually guarantee that Russia will be bailed out of its current difficulties, which include Moscow being flooded with demonstrators complaining that they have not been paid. Far from being to blame for Russia's problems, Indonesia may come to be seen as its saviour.

IMF rescues will find it hard to argue against help for Russia. Its politicians were clearly milking their special status last week. On the day of Mr Odling-Smee's arrival, Oleg Vyugin, Deputy Finance Minister, said that the next \$670 million tranche would not be enough to solve the country's economic problems. He said that effective support would have to be on quite a different scale.

may be prepared to lend Russia a financial lifeline directly. On Thursday the IMF was still insisting that no new money was on the table and that the release of the \$670 million tranche still depended on satisfactory progress in Moscow on measures to boost its tax revenues, including improved tax collection.

However, as Korea, Thailand and eventually Indonesia demonstrated, the IMF will have little choice but to come up with the money and very soon, whether or not Russia commits itself to the reforms being demanded. Moral hazard is damned, the IMF has come to be seen as the only answer to financial crises and, at minimum, it must disburse its next tranche of money for the markets to stabilise.

The question is whether that will be enough. Opinion is split. Emerging markets economists at Credit Suisse First Boston believe that much damage has been done by the delay in disbursing the \$670 million. They said: "A considerably larger IMF package may now be needed. Time is pressing as the banking sector will be under pressure from these prohibitively high rates." They said it was vital to boost the central bank's foreign currency reserves from the \$14 billion cited on Thursday.

THE organiser of yesterday morning's artistic event on London Bridge, where commuters were asked to wear large cardboard ears and then nominated for the Turner Prize, is not without a sense of humour. "I suppose you're calling to ask me to become the next boss of British Biotech," says Anthony Samuelson when I introduce myself. He says his ultimate dream is to extend the event to the Apprentice Boys' march in Northern Ireland by asking them to wear Union Jack ears similar to those he handed out at the Proms last year.

"Then you really would know the Troubles were over," he enthuses. Well, yours certainly would be. "And then we could give them to the Hajj pilgrims in Mecca." The worrying thing is that a contact in the art world tells me he is serious.

EDWIN WATERHOUSE must be spinning in his grave. The great patriarch of Price Waterhouse would be horrified to learn that his name is losing the capital W, now Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand are to merge as PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Even worse, in the logo invented for the merger the jumbled waterhouse part looks as though it has been caught in a pile-up between Price and Coopers. Thus neatly reversing the historical realities, because Edwin Waterhouse was the epitome of a Victorian gentleman. It was Sammy Price who used to return to the office bloodied from lunch-time punch-ups with the Fenians.

## Roulette

BAD timing or counter-cyclical thinking? I see from the *Financial Times* that a "leading City-based international financial institution" is seeking an equity research analyst. This person will be making recommendations to clients on portfolio investments in metal and manufacturing in a certain country and maintaining client relationships. Oh, and fluent Russian required, exceptional knowledge of Russian industry, and ideally an MBA. The salary is all of \$60,000, or less than £40,000, which won't go far in St Petersburg either.



rather good at table football. (The trick is to be left-handed; you can slam them in from the centre.) So I must decline the challenge to take on the winner of a 32-team tournament on Monday night drawn from the venture capital world, as it would be a shame to spoil someone's evening.

The event is hosted by BPG Corporate Finance. The teams will each represent one of the sides taking place in the World Cup. So England will be Ivory & Sime. A Scottish firm, as it happens. Scotland are Barclays, which is English. Brazil are HSBC, from Hong Kong...

## Handy guide

YOU know that the cult for management gurus has flipped completely out of control when the industry can support not only their flatterer textbooks but whole encyclopedias devoted to their works, so the stressed executive never actually has to read them. Two such hit my desk this week, which is either a coincidence of Koestlerian proportions or a grim warning of a flood of them yet to come. Take your pick from *The Ultimate Business Guru Book*, a tipster through "50 Thinkers Who Made Management", or *Guide to the Management Gurus*, which somehow limits the field to just 40; I begin to warm to Stuart Crainer, the author of the first book, who not only cheats by including Sun Tzu and Machiavelli to make up his quota but in his acknowledgements thanks his publishers because they "continue to pick up the tab for lunch". But then I see that, on completing the first 50, he launches into another 50 also. A hundred essential management gurus? Spare us.

MARTIN WALLER

# How would you make money on your house without selling it?

- (a) Open the gardens up to the public?
- (b) Convert your garage into a theme park?
- (c) Rent the box room to a South American fugitive?
- (d) Re-mortgage with a Virgin One account?

Your home is usually the most valuable thing you possess, but if it goes up in value the only way you can get your hands on your profit is by selling it. With the Virgin One account you can get hold of that money whenever you want by just writing a cheque. And however you spend the money, you pay the same competitive rate of interest as your mortgage. If you have, or are about to buy, a home with a mortgage of at least £50,000, then give us a call on 08456 00 00 01 to find out if we're right for you. The Virgin One account. It's no small change. The Virgin One account is a secured personal bank account with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

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Representative only of Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life insurance, pensions and unit trust business and represents only the Virgin Direct Marketing Group. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. You can phone for further information or a written quotation at any time. You must be aged 18 or over. Life Insurance is required. For your security all calls are recorded and randomly monitored. Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd, Discovery House, Whiting Rd, Norwich, NR4 6EL.

# A mutual friend poised for further defence of status

Until last summer few people outside the world of personal finance had heard of Brian Davis. He was merely the chief executive of a building society that even he once considered boring. That changed, suddenly and dramatically, when Nationwide found itself the target of a group of determined carpetbaggers bent on wringing windfalls of £1,000 out of the largest remaining society.



Brian Davis says he is a businessman and not a crusader

The battle between the board and the speculators became front page news, but in the event Davis won the day. Nationwide's three million-plus customers voted not with their pockets but with their principles, defeating the carpetbaggers by a margin of three to one. In the process, Davis became the champion of mutuality and the defender of more than 200 years of tradition, a role which he will have to revive in the next few weeks as Nationwide prepares itself for a fresh demutualisation vote.

It is not a role he cherishes. "I am no crusader. I am a businessman," Davis says. "It is just that I cannot see any reason why Nationwide should change its status. There is no business justification for it." He launches into a well-rehearsed argument with no shareholders, the society can offer better rates to savers and borrowers than its rivals on the stock market. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine a more unlikely champion of the mutual cause. A chemist by education, he worked for 16 years in the oil industry, a sector hardly known for its ethical track record, before moving to the then sleepy building society sector.

luctance to act as mutuality's champion - he has attained the reputation virtually by default as his peers have taken the flotation route - Davis uses rather humdrum language to advance his arguments. This softly spoken, almost shy man believes that the facts, or rather the figures, speak for themselves.

His low-key approach has sometimes led others to describe him as dull. However, some mutual executives believe his ordinariness is almost a deliberate ploy not to unsettle the customers. After all, he does have a PhD in rocket science. "Brian has this huge advantage: he has the touch of the

common man," says one rival society executive. "He has no airs and graces, talks in simple language. He does not go for the flash, like the banks. Brian is in fact ever so ordinary. He understands that his customers do not like the flash."

There can be no doubt that Davis's image as an ordinary bloke, whether cultivated or not, was a tremendous help in defeating Michael Hardern, the self-styled king of the carpetbaggers and his main adversary last summer. While Davis tried to keep a discreet silence, Hardern - a freelance butler - courted the press, not always with positive results.

**IN THE HOT SEAT**

**CV: BRIAN DAVIS**

Born 1944

BSc in chemistry, PhD in rocket fuel technology

1970: joins Esso (takes voluntary redundancy in 1986)

1987: deputy general manager (technology) of Nationwide

1994: chief executive

1996: chairman of Building Societies Commission

1997: defeats carpetbaggers

One newspaper printed a picture of him wearing a dress. Whether it was through a dislike of Hardern, or a reaction to the windfall fever that had put more than £30 billion in the pockets of millions, Nationwide members voted convincingly to keep their society mutual. It was a vindication for Davis and his board. This July, Davis has to face a second challenge, again led by Hardern. But this time Hardern and his fellow campaigner, Andrew Muir, have been far more sophisticated. The resolutions they have tabled for the society's AGM, while not binding, will allow Nationwide's 4.5 million members to reject Hardern, yet still choose conversion and windfalls estimated at between £1,000 and £2,000. Davis is also better prepared. In a controversial move, he has made new customers sign waiver documents that ensure any windfall must go to charity. "We have another year under our belt, and the argument in defence of mutuality has become more apparent. What is important is that people vote." Of course, if the poll goes against the wishes of the Nationwide board, then says Davis, it would have to consider all its options. Market-watchers believe these options could include a sale to a friendly buyer, rather than conversion. Possible takeover candidates include Lloyds TSB, the UK's biggest bank by market value, and HSBC Holdings, owner of Midland Bank. However, Mr Davis remains characteristically reticent on the matter. "We will look to get the best deal for our members." And would he stand down? "I am relatively young at 53. One thing about being the chief executive of a building society is that you have to be re-elected every three years. That comes up again next year, which should take me through 2000. But if the vote is for conversion, well, it's like being the captain of a ship. Just because it changes direction, you don't jump in the sea."

RICHARD MILES

Struggling under reno

COMMODITY

LIFE OPTI

مكتبة من الامم



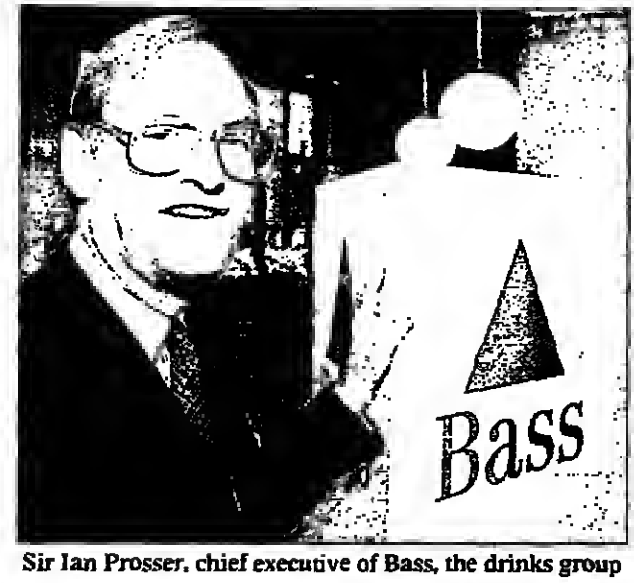
STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK
Stock Market Writer of the Year

Struggling Ionica comes under renewed pressure

TIME may be running out for Ionica Group, which has come under further selling pressure...



Sir Ian Prosser, chief executive of Bass, the drinks group

BSkyB retreated 9p to 431p with the Premier League clubs voting to reject proposals to introduce pay-per-view television for league games.

Only last week, shares in the troubled telecoms operator slumped to a low of 24 1/2 p after it was urged to find a "strategic investor" in order to finance the group's long-term debt.

talks with Safeway, 5 1/2 p lower at 372 1/2 p, a record low. The speculators were also suggesting that Storehouse, 10p better at 279p, might want to bid for Asda.

Card Clear came in for profit taking after its recent strong run with the price dropping 9 1/2 p to 78p.

Shortly after the shares hit 42 1/2 p at which level the company boosted a price tag of £710 million.

Queens Moat Houses rose 4 1/2 p to 36 1/2 p, with 167 million shares traded. Banque Nationale de Paris, which took equity in exchange for debt, has unloaded its holding of 62.2 million shares.

Troubled British Biotech came in for fresh renewed selling with the price dropping 5 1/2 p to a new low of 48 1/2 p.

The equity market rounded off another difficult week on a steady note although prices closed well below their best levels of the day.

European Fresh Money. It will replace GEC, down 4p at 502p.

Due to technical difficulties at Liffe, the Options quoted below are Wednesday's prices.

Opening losses on Wall Street unsettled investors and a 53-point lead in the FTSE 100 slipped away. It closed 8.4 up at 5,870.7, a fall on the week of 84.9.

FTSE 250 was Delaney Estates, which ended the day 47 1/2 p, or 46 per cent, better at 150p.

Rolls-Royce eased 4 1/2 p to 291 1/2 p after Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, downgraded its recommendation for the shares from "add" to "hold".

Total turnover was boosted by a large share placing in Queens Moat amounting to 167 million shares.

But ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, maintains that it prefers Whitbread, down 1 1/2 p to 99p, to Bass and has been urging clients to switch.

Rolls-Royce eased 4 1/2 p to 291 1/2 p after Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, downgraded its recommendation for the shares from "add" to "hold".

It is thought Hillside will now proceed with plans to split its food processing and furniture operations in two.

Reports that merger talks between Kingfisher down 20p at £10.85, and Asda, 1p easier at 182p, may be back on again created a ripple of excitement.

Due to technical difficulties at Liffe, the Options quoted below are Wednesday's prices.

Brokers say it is more likely the two sides are exploring the possibility of co-operating in certain areas. But whether the two sides get together, or not, it seems to confirm intense City speculation that Asda is anxious to complete some sort of deal having seen merger

talks with Safeway, 5 1/2 p lower at 372 1/2 p, a record low. The speculators were also suggesting that Storehouse, 10p better at 279p, might want to bid for Asda.

Due to technical difficulties at Liffe, the Options quoted below are Wednesday's prices.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Ambient Media, Ambius Pub Co, BT Red P/B, Baronsmead VCT 2, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Ask Central n/p (350), John Lusty n/p (10), etc.

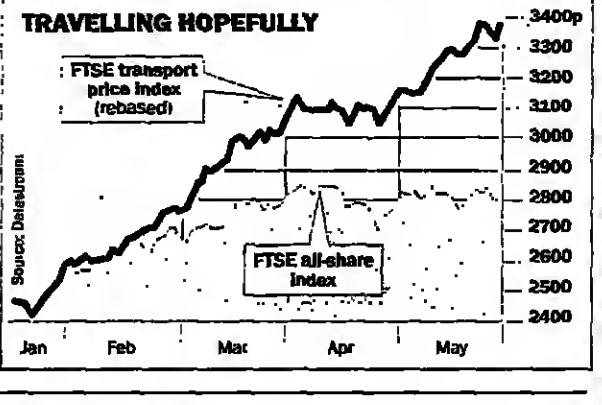
MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major changes including RISES: Eve Group, Enbridge, etc.

TEMPUS Cleaning itself up

IT WILL be a long time before Yorkshire Water will out of the doghouse but at least it has made a start. It is at least confident that it has sufficient supplies of water...

ONLY two weeks away from the Government's White Paper on transport, and the City is more bullish than ever about the prospects for Britain's privatised bus and rail companies.



Arriva and FirstGroup, who command a third of the UK bus market, have pushed the sector to outperform the market by 23 per cent in the last six months.

FROM a standing start with next to no capital in 1991, Goldshield Group has built a pharmaceutical marketing business that it hopes to float for £55 million next week.

Delaney Estates, which ended the day 47 1/2 p, or 46 per cent, better at 150p.

Rolls-Royce eased 4 1/2 p to 291 1/2 p after Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, downgraded its recommendation for the shares from "add" to "hold".

Due to technical difficulties at Liffe, the Options quoted below are Wednesday's prices.

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COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LIFFE, ICE, and other markets.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, etc.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, etc.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices including ANP Inc, Amgen, etc.

LIFFE OPTIONS

Table of Liffe options for various commodities.

LONDON METALS

Table of London metals prices including Gold, Silver, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates.



NEWS

Labour U-turn on school opt-out

Labour is planning to complete the process of allowing schools to opt out of local authority control which it fought against bitterly when in opposition. The transformation in the running of state schools was announced by ministers in a move seen as completing the Conservative goal of ending town hall control of education. Pages 1

Surgeons were not up to the job

Two surgeons who ignored repeated warnings that they were clinically incompetent continued to carry out complicated heart operations during which 29 babies died, the General Medical Council said. A third doctor, who had the authority to stop them at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, failed to do so. Pages 1, 3

Tourism's loss

The Government wants to axe the 30-year-old English Tourist Board, which promotes the £20 billion domestic tourism market, to save money. Page 1

Viagra suit

A woman, 63, is suing her 70-year-old partner who eloped with a younger woman after taking the potency pill Viagra. Page 1

In-cell television

The Government is to provide thousands more prisoners with in-cell television. Page 2

Lawyer in the limelight

Elaine Whitfield-Sharp, a member of the Louise Woodward legal defence team, has usurped the British au pair's place at the centre of the stage. Page 5

No regrets

Emperor Akihito ended his state visit, with his staff insisting that the trip had not been spoiled by the PoWs' protests. Page 16

Bridge of glory

The first Severn road bridge received the accolade of a Grade I listing. Page 6

Who is fittest?

The race is on to find Britain's fittest man and woman. Competitors will have to take the X Zone challenge which is more demanding than a triathlon. Page 7

Yeltsin talks up rouble

President Yeltsin's tough action to deal with Russia's economic crisis has boosted the rouble. Page 13

Nuclear challenge

The challenge for the three Western nuclear powers is to ensure that neither Russia nor China will play any role in accelerating the arms race in South Asia. Page 15

Lottery Lords

A think-tank says peers should be chosen by a lottery draw as occurred in the cradle of democracy in Ancient Greece. Page 19

Spice Girls lose dash without Ginger

Did Posh, Sporty, Scary, Baby and Ginger — especially Ginger — have a row on the way back from Helsinki? The claims are that Ginger stormed off and the Spice Girls have split. If so, does that mean the end of the Spice Girls? Page 20



Artist Damien Hirst, right, supervised a giant spin painting on a billboard at London's Vauxhall Bridge by students of Rudolph Steiner School to promote a new single, *Vindaloo*, by comic Keith Allen, second from right, who predicted it will knock spots off other World Cup rival songs

NEWS FEATURES, OPINION, COLUMNS, BUSINESS, SPORT, OBITUARIES, LETTERS. Includes articles on Valerie Grove, Nuclear Mogul, Simon Jenkins, Ann Leslie, George Soros, and others.

SECTIONS



Cover story: Rod Stewart, the original Jack-the-lad... Page 18. Motown UK: Cars are big in Birmingham... Page 26. Interiors: The ultimate studio flat... Pages 44-52. Food: Pages 59-69. Jean genes: Revamped denim... Pages 70-75.

metro

The Big Interview: Fashion photographer Juergen Teller... Page 6. Music: Ultra cool Morcheeba... Pages 10-14. Books: Football sales pitch... Pages 16-21. Hip affair: A new Oxbridge ball game... Page 24. Listings: Pages 26-43.

WEEKEND

Royal beat: Brian MacArthur admires the stamina of the Prince... Page 1. Fashion: The best in black and white... Page 5. Gardening: Formal beds in turf... Pages 15-18. Faith: Stargazers can be Christians... Page 23. Travel: Kenya; the Mekong; Picots... Pages 27-35.

Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels. Includes logos for BBC, ITV, and others. Puzzles and prizes for younger readers.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,805

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Beetle comes to have a lasting effect on Jack (6). 5 Spectator's a weekly paper (5). 9 Police astride horses appearing promptly (1-4). 10 Old instrument in band without tuning pegs (6). 11 Don't believe Duke is noble (8). 12 Swede, say, about to join golf club shortly (8). 13 University, with new advertisements, removes cause of stoppage (7). 16 Champion gets youngster into trouble (7). 20 Frank's girl nearly packed after first sign of trouble (8). 22 Elope with my excited sweetheart, one under firm control (8). 23 Fudge that's used in American biscuit (6). 24 Fruit useless for a pudding (4,4). 25 Soft and gentle as a woolly jumper (8). 26 Ravel's complicated mass (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20799 and Solution to Puzzle No 20804. Includes crossword solutions and a word search.

Last week's winners: 1 Macintyre, Isle of Barra; E. Gough, Harrogate; Birmingham; A. Thomas, Porton; Mid Glam; R. Davies, London SW18; N. Evans, St Peter, Jersey.

World Road and Weather conditions

Table with columns for region, road number, and weather conditions. Includes entries for UK, Europe, and other regions.

Weather by Fax

Table listing weather services by fax number for various locations like London, Manchester, and others.

World City Weather

Table providing weather forecasts for major world cities such as New York, London, Tokyo, and Sydney.

Motoring

Table listing motoring services and contact information for various countries.

Car reports by fax

Text providing information on car reports by fax, including contact details for AA members.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various locations today and tomorrow.

HIGH TIDES

Table listing high tide times for various ports and locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Text providing information on highest and lowest temperatures and other weather-related data.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Text promoting newspaper recycling and environmental awareness.

FORECAST

General: southern England will have some warm sunshine. Thunder rain will move into south west and the rest of the south may have thundery showers later. Scotland will be generally cloudy, with showery rain in south this morning. Northern Ireland and northern parts of England and Wales will be mostly dry.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

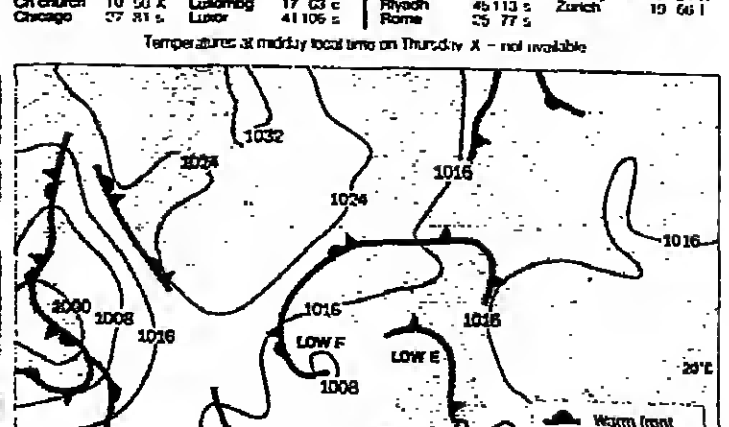
Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, sun, rain, and wind.

ABROAD

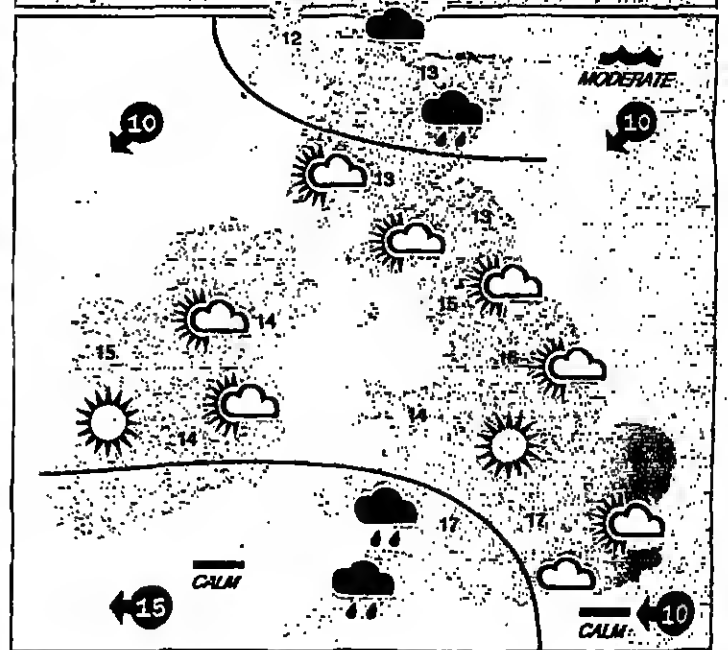
Table showing weather conditions in various international locations.

TEMPERATURES AT MIDDAY LOCAL TIME ON THURSDAY

Table listing midday temperatures for various cities and locations.



NOON TODAY



TORONTO OR NEW YORK

BA 747 to Toronto • five nights at deluxe Sheraton • Niagara with helicopter • city tour • luncheons • theatre • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow • depart on 8 July, 5 Aug., 14 Sept. or 3 Oct. £1,999. BA 747 in Toronto on 20 Sept. • three nights with tours • Concorde to Vancouver • five nights to see the Rockies with Rocky Mountainair train £2,999. BA 747 to New York any weekend • four nights at deluxe NY Palace • Concorde to Heathrow £2,699.

THE WORLD CUP FINAL

Concorde with World Cup Final seat on 12 July £1,999

ORIANA & ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde to Tenerife on 13 Aug. • eight night Oriana cruise to Southampton via Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, Praia da Rocha, Lisbon & La Coruna • Orient-Express £2,499. Orient-Express to Southampton • four night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Madeira • Concorde return £1,699.

NEW GRAND PRINCESS

Fly to Istanbul on 13 Aug • five night cruise on the new Grand Princess to Venice via Ephesus and Athens • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,999. Concorde to Venice on 11 Aug. • seven night cruise on the new Grand Princess to Barcelona via Naples, Livorno (for Florence) and Monte-Carlo £2,499.

QE2 WITH CONCORDE

Concorde supersonic to Tenerife on 16 June • four night QE2 cruise to Southampton via Madeira • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,699. Orient-Express to Victoria on 20 July • eleven night QE2 Land of the Midnight Sun cruise via the Norwegian Fjords to Bergen • Concorde return £2,999. Concorde supersonic to Bergen on 31 July • four night QE2 cruise to Southampton via Orkney Islands and Edinburgh • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,699.

For our full colour brochure, please telephone: 0181-992 4477 or visit us SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL 43, Woodhurst Road, London, W3 6SS Tel: 0181-992 6991

Large advertisement for Gasco England, featuring a picture of a man and text about football and travel services.



TOUR GUIDE

Hansie Cronje on leading South Africa PAGE 38



LOVE LAWN

The game for swinging lovers PAGE 41



£50,000 TO BE WON Play World Cup Fantasy League PAGE 42



DANNY BAKER

Selling football by the pound PAGE 35



WEEKEND MONEY

WHO PAYS WHEN HIRED CLOTHES GET TRASHED? PAGE 64



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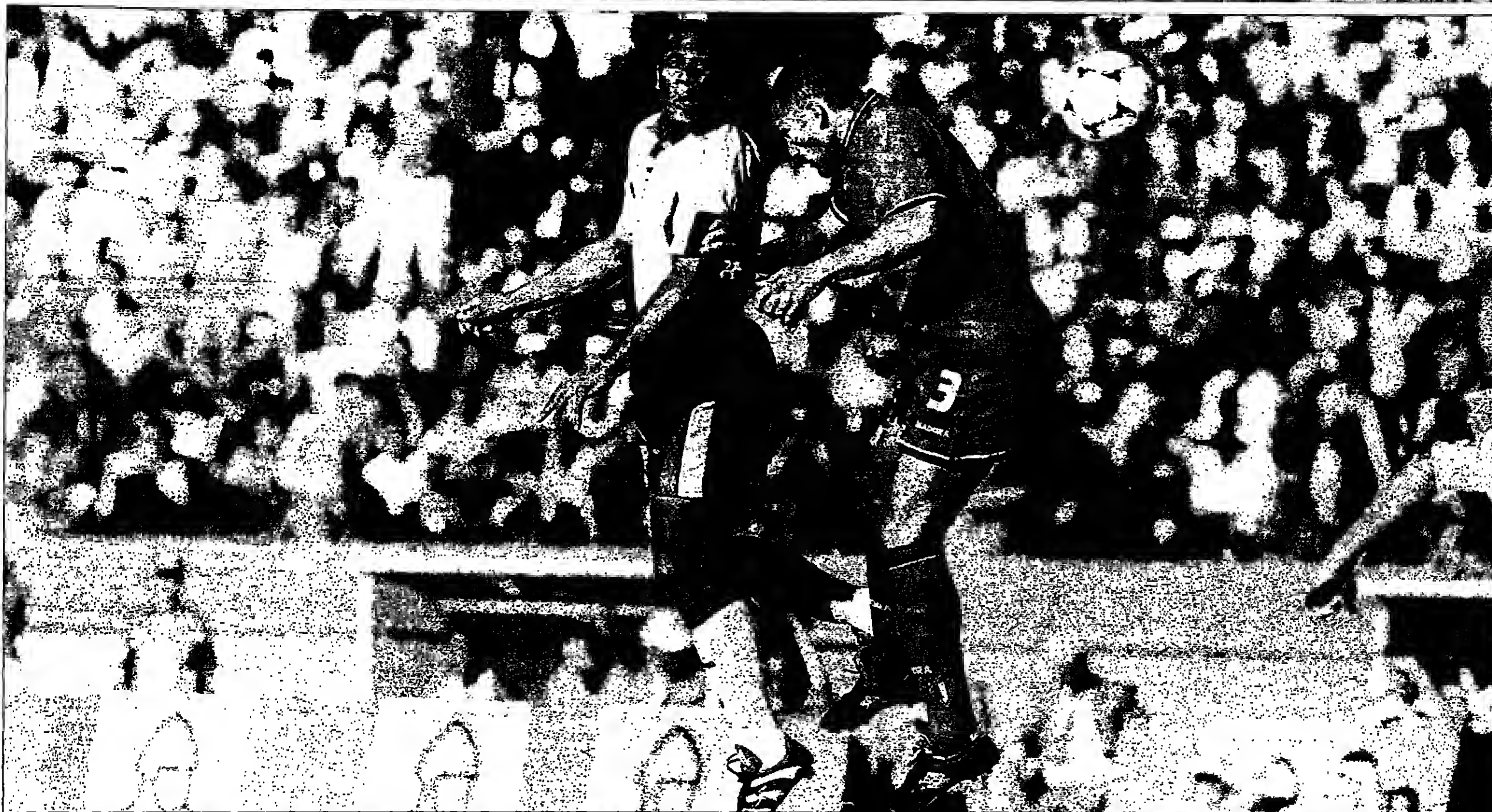
A SIDECAR NAMED DESIRE PAGE 51



THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT 14 PAGES

MAY 30 1998

GARY NEVILLE ON THE ROAD TO FRANCE - PAGE 37



Les Ferdinand rises high to beat Van Meir, the Lierse defender, to the ball in the first half of England's uninspiring goalless draw against Belgium in Casablanca last night. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Gascoigne hobbles off in England's final rehearsal

Belgium .....0 England .....0

FROM OLIVER HOLT FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN CASABLANCA

ENGLAND were last night involved in a double injury scare as they meandered their way to a lacklustre draw with Belgium here in their final World Cup warm-up game.

boded well for his chances of making the final 22. But it later emerged that he had sustained an injury in training on Thursday.

For others, their places in the starting line-up may well have been a distinctly mixed blessing, more of a last hurrah than a last chance. Just as Terry Venables played Dennis Wise and Ugo Ehiogu in the last warm-up game before the 1996 European championship and then omitted them both from the squad, the same may apply to Robert Lee, Paul Merson and Les Ferdinand, who all began last night's game here.

England's national anthem was roundly booed by the home crowd

before the game because Hoddle and his squad, alone among the four nations competing here in the King Hassan II international tournament, chose to return to Spain in the two days between their matches rather than remain in Morocco. The hostility continued throughout the game.

Whether it was because of that or the unfamiliar look of the team, England were second-best for much of the first half. Merson, in particular, seemed tentative and wore the air of a man who knew his chance had already gone.

The best chances of the half all fell to Belgium, the first coming in the ninth minute when Boffin broke

through but missed his kick as he bore down on Martyn. Thirteen minutes later, Mpenza pounced on a mistake by England's 23-year-old captain midway inside his own half and advanced on Martyn. This time, the Leeds goalkeeper had to make a save and pushed the forward's left-foot shot round the post.

Three minutes after that, Mpenza beat the offside trap to run onto a clever through-ball from De Boeck. The ball bounced up off his boot and, as he leapt to try to head it in, Martyn managed to snatch it away from him.

In the second half, Hoddle abandoned the 4-4-2 formation that he had started with for the first time as an

international manager and reverted to the 3-5-2 formation he has favoured. He brought on Rio Ferdinand for Phil Neville and Michael Owen for Gary Neville and pulled Merson back into midfield.

Despite the glut of changes, England seemed far more assured at the start of the second period. But they suffered a blow five minutes into it when Gascoigne was forced to submit to what appeared to be a recurrence of his ankle injury.

Already bandaged about the head after a high kick from Scifo, he was then fouled by Borkelmans late in the first half and never seemed to recover properly. He limped off at half-time and it only took five minutes of the second half for him to realise that it would be foolish to continue.

Beckham, though, proved an able deputy and, after Van Meir had been booked for a mistimed tackle on Owen that was more a tribute to the pace of the young Liverpool forward than an indictment of the ineptitude of the defender, Le Saux managed England's first serious attempt on goal when he dummed his way past a defender and forced Van der Walke to tip the ball over the bar.

Merson, looking happier now in midfield, had a shot charged down in the 63rd minute and five minutes later his Berce volley dipped just over the crossbar.

ENGLAND (4-4-2): P. van der Walke (Aals) - E. Dalkens (FC Brussels), E. van Meer (Lierse), M. Verstraeten (Kortrijk), S. Verheyen (FC Brussels), G. de Boeck (Westerlo), E. Scifo (Westerlo), V. Borkelmans (FC Brussels) - M. Goossens (Schoten), D. M. Mpenza, Standard Liege, 40mm, E. Mpenza (Standard Liege), D. Boffin (FC Metz).

ENGLAND (4-4-2): N. Martyn (Leeds) - G. Neville (Manchester Utd), M. Owen, Liverpool, 40, M. Keown (Aston), S. Cornhill (Tottenham Hotspur), S. D. Dublin, Coventry City, 75, P. Neville (Manchester Utd), S. R. Ferdinand, West Ham Utd, 40 - R. Lee (Newcastle Utd), P. Gascoigne (Manchester Utd), S. O. Beckford, Manchester Utd, 40, N. Bull (Manchester Utd), B. Lu Sater (Chelsea) - L. Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur), P. Merson (Manchester Utd).

Chelsea lure Casiraghi for £5.4m

By DAVID MADDOCK

PAY-PER-VIEW may have been temporarily repelled, but the invasion of foreign footballers continues apace, with the transfer yesterday of Pierluigi Casiraghi from Lazio, Italy, to Chelsea. The 29-year-old Lazio forward has cost the London club a record fee of £5.4 million.

At a news conference yesterday to announce his transfer, Casiraghi confessed a lifelong admiration for English football, an opinion possibly enhanced by the fact that he has signed a four-year contract worth in excess of £15 million per year. The forward renews a relationship with Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, that stretches back to 1993, when, ironically, Vialli replaced his younger rival in the Juventus side. The pair have played together at international level, although neither will travel to France for the World Cup finals.

proven international quality at a reasonable price," Vialli said yesterday. "I know what he can do and I know he can succeed in English football. He is quick, strong and good in the air."

For his part, Casiraghi confessed that the move could not come quickly enough for him. He was looking for a transfer to England last summer, but Lazio stood in his way. "I am so happy that I have moved to England. I think the football here is excellent," he said. "Of course, the fact that there are Italians at the club helped me to make the decision. They are my friends and I spoke with them about the club, about the city and about life in England. They are very impressed and they impressed me. I am friends with Gianluca and I would like to play alongside him

again - although I don't know what I will call him now, maybe Mr Vialli."

Middlesbrough, Blackburn Rovers and Liverpool had all expressed an interest in the player, but for Casiraghi the lure of Oxford Street and the foreign legions at Stamford Bridge proved to be strongest of all.

He may not be the last of Chelsea's continental signings this season, either. They have shown an interest in Marcel Desailly, the France defender and midfield player, and the 29-year-old said yesterday that he will talk to the London club once more before making a decision on a move.

"I have spoken to both Liverpool and Chelsea and I will decide over the next week where my next move will be," Desailly said. "I am impressed by both clubs and I hope to play in England."

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# Mystery of Bontcho's King's Cross caper

Have had a tremendous reaction to an appeal for sightings of professional footballers wearing their kits outside of genuine club duties. Famous non-victim Neil Lennon sets the standard early on with an actual change of strip while on a recent holiday in the Caribbean.

It seems that early risers could have seen Neil selecting Bran Flakes and grapefruit segments from the breakfast buffet while brazenly wearing the shirt and shorts of Leicester City. So startling was this advertising that the more cynical football element at the three-star stop began circulating the plausible alternative that only a bogus Neil Lennon would be quite so gauche.

However, that evening jaws drop even further as he returns to the dining room for some swordfish and taramis in white slacks and a bona-fide Northern Ireland shirt complete with tell-tale creases where it has been folded for the packing case.

My correspondent says he affected a coincidental trip to the toilets with this still unconfirmed professional during which he took a moment to ask "Are you Neil Lennon, then?" to which the shameless showboater replied, "Yes... yes I am."

A rather more shaky sighting

## DANNY BAKER



has David Plan — who always seems to pop up, whatever category you explore — exiting D. H. Evans in London's Oxford Street wearing a Hawaiian shirt, garish Bermuda shorts and a pair of Arsenal away socks rolled down to his Reeboks.

By far the most complete and perplexing tale though concerns

Bontcho Guenchev, of Luton. Two people called Steve and Graham had attended the Crystal Palace fixture against Luton at Selhurst Park despite the fact they had to leave early in order to attend a function in North London.

Some 30 minutes before the final whistle, they left their seats and set off on the complicated journey across the capital. However, all the connections clicked and they made splendid time. They were reflecting on this as they made their way 50 minutes later up the escalator at King's Cross underground station... when the most incredible thing happened. Loping up the left-hand lane, so to speak, head down and muttering repeated "Excuse me" came Bontcho Guenchev.

The same Bontcho Guenchev they had left embroiled in a neatly balanced first-division fixture across London less than an hour previously. Even if he had been substituted moments after Steve and Graham had left the stadium, he must have run like the wind because Steve and Graham noticed a Bontcho Guenchev on their previous transports thus far.

Particularly this Bontcho Guenchev because this Bontcho Guenchev was still in his full kit and covered in mud. True, he had paused long enough to slip on a pair of trainers and they supposed

his boots were in the dark green Body Shop carrier bag that dangled at his side, but this slight nod in the direction of convention was hardly enough.

Here, while every other footballer in Britain was only just stepping into the sunken bath to soothe away the lumps and bumps of professional combat and probably striking up the off-colour songs, was one of their number legging it like fury up the stairs of a metropolitan Tube station in full and soiled dress uniform.

What on earth was going on? Steve and Graham naturally gave chase. What they witnessed only deepens the mystery. Guenchev hastened through the ticket barrier and out to the cab rank, where he was noisily greeted in a foreign tongue by another man. This man, in a formal but light coloured suit and sported a heavy black cape. A cape, sir!

So let us consider the image. We have a famous footballer still in his full kit and caked in mud not 20 minutes after giving of 110 per cent standing side by side with a babbling man wearing a cape in a North London cab rank. Now there's good two-piper, eh Holmes?

I need hardly tell you that other sightings of Off Duty Kits you may have will be treated in the slackest confidence.



Kit packed: How Leicester's Neil Lennon might have looked on the beach during his "getting away from it all" holiday

## This phoney warm-up shows we're not in the real world

How can they keep charging full price for admission to these pre-World Cup walkabout matches? If entrance was but a pound a head, then these dreary, slack-tempo training sessions might be generously considered the equivalent of watching a boxer sparring before a big fight, but HQ persist in the notion that we are witnessing bona fide fixtures and must view them every bit as seriously as the group matches themselves.

Talk about vanity. These games are awful, were always going to be awful and always will be awful. I would much prefer it if, like boxers, the international squads vanished from view to security-guarded, mountain-top retreats. There, teams like Leicester City, Bristol City and Arbroath could be bussed in to provide the meat in mysterious games where all the evaluating of team, talent and fitness might be assessed without fuss and theatrics.

I would find it much more heartening if a simple note was pinned to the high metal door at camp entrance each sundown revealing to the outside world that the final score in today's match was England 26 Port

Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.

## Hitching up to pay-per-view trailer

On Thursday, I put on Teletext to see the screen aglow with the news that next season certain matches on Sky Television would be pay-per-view. It may not have been confirmed yesterday, but it is certain it will. Seeing as Sky subscribers already pay to do just that, what they mean is, of course, Pay Even More Per View, but the phrase Pay Even More Per View would make the people concerned sound like a gang of grasping, high-handed, fish-eyed pirates and it would be hard to put a positive spin on such an image — even with a high-octane goal montage and a pumping track by Robbie Williams.

I have never had a problem with Sky's money for matches before — their coverage is lush and defini-

— but this new enclosure will be tantamount to hiding matches and blackmailing punters for use of the key. The only club named as among "The Big Four" in the venture so far is, naturally, Manchester United, but it's a fair guess that Arsenal are also a twinkle in the snout as those wavy gray lines eventually emerge from this fresh trough. And yes, I, and countless others, will pony up the dough on cue in order to watch them play each other next season.

But who will the others be? Tottenham? No one's going to pay extra hard-earned to watch Tottenham, are they? Not even mad people, who, let's face it, are not even allowed to vote. Speaking of which, I dare say working-class

champion Ken Bates will consider his ridiculous caravan of lightweight narcissi something of an irresistible draw and it will be a very brave man at Sky who has to somehow get through to the bristling Cap'n that, outside of his Disney-style fantasy village existence, his team are in fact a laughing stock throughout the land and almost entirely responsible for the archaic term "pansies" appearing back in vogue.

As for clumsy Liverpool and wretched, wretched Newcastle, all I can resort to is quoting a grand old joke from the twilight years of music-hall. Here goes. You know figures show that Liverpool and Newcastle matches on Sky were responsible for 80 per cent of televisions sold last year. And

those who couldn't sell them gave them away. I Thank You!

In the end, though, it probably won't matter. The greatest weapons in the Sky armoury are its advertising trailers. They could sell a Sunday roast to Carla Lane. Before now, I've been suckered into viewing all kinds of dumbbell programmes with titles like When Sharks Attack, The World's Scariest Police Chases and A Conversation With Celine Dion. With a few fast zooms, shaking nets and a gravelly voice-over I can easily see myself falling for:

"Derby County were one of the most talked-about sides last year. Now they face their ultimate test in the quest for early season mid-table safety. Because Derby are coming... to West Ham!" (Cue *Two Tribes* by Frankie Goes to Hollywood and huge sequence of fast-cut action featuring men sliding on their behinds putting the ball out for throw-in.)

"West Ham! They tailed off last season... now someone's got to pay! This classic grudge fixture comes exclusively to Sky Television this Sunday for a special price of £24.99! No need to phone — just blink your eyes twice and well do the rest. It's West Ham v Derby — Live And For Cash! Your Mother's Operation Can Wait... Man, I'm over the World Cup already..."

## Paying the penalty for a lack of vision

Waking on Bank Holiday Monday, I am in the grip of an unusually strong feeling of well-being, where the snail is on the thorn, the lark on the wing and everything's for the best in this best of all possible worlds. Rousing the house, I announce today is a perfect day for one of the famous Baker family mystery tours, which excites everyone, despite the fact we always end up in Folkestone.

Picnic packed, maps consulted, I am set and in the Land Rover by 8.15am, which is a shame because my wife doesn't announce herself ready to leave until just after 11. The weather is with us, James Taylor sings agreeably on the tape player and the hat is on the side of my head as I draw up at the last lights before the M2 motorway and glorious Kent.

A glory pulls up in my right. "Dropping the kids off Dan?" he beams. "No, no. Day out. Going to get lost in the lanes of the Garden

of England!" "Oh," he frowns, "don't fancy the play-off on telly this afternoon then?" And somewhere in my head an atom bomb goes off. I have to reveal that as Sunderland and Charlton took the nation to the brink of breathlessness in the penalty shoot-out after the 4-4 draw, I was pretending to show interest in some flower pots in a small garden centre just outside Sissinghurst, the famous stately home and woodlands, which, as I know now, doesn't open on Mondays, not even Bank Holiday ones.

It had started raining. I labour you with this atypical peek into my private life because ever since Monday people have hailed Charlton's triumph as the greatest game at Wembley since the World Cup and on four separate occasions it has been noted that nobody will ever forget where they were when Gray missed the fatal kick. I, however, shall try.

Vale 15. Then I'd be confident there'd been some action, a top-kill-you-drop mentality, where, through the sheer length, familiarity and insanity of the fixture, minds had melded and partnerships matured.

They'd have laughed together, taken liberties, tried new things, relaxed and worked out. The idea that an international manager actually picks his squad on the evidence of a game like England v Saudi Arabia is preposterous, but all week I've heard people suggesting — and doing — just that. In fact, the past seven days can have served only to confuse views and plans that Glen Hoddle must have had all but in concrete as far back as Rome in October.

Players should nude-wrestle, live wild in the woods, line dance — anything but take time out from actual preparation to float around in these airless public relations exhibition games. They depress everyone, players and supporters, and no matter how many high-blown titles you give the eventual phoney-balance trophy at stake, it's time we realised that, with the World Cup to prepare for, the friendly is a squad's worst enemy.

## Francis ignores usual PC plod



I know, calm down, we all heard it. When Trevor Francis said, while communitating at the England game in Casablanca: "See, you've got to realise we're not capitalising on the psychology enough here. It's a fact that when England face Saudi Arabia or come to places like Morocco, they must know these people always feel inferior to us." Whoops, I think he meant to say "players". Still, if he didn't, what the hell, good for him! The World Cup needs its Howard Stern.

## Kevin Eason on a man attempting to keep his career on right track

# Frustrated Hill reaches the crossroads

Time is running out for Damon Hill. The former world champion set a two-year limit on his Formula One career yesterday and confronted the reality that he might not win another grand prix. The move to Jordan this year, which was supposed to put him back on the podium, has actually put his career in the wilderness.

Without a point in six races and predicting another struggle in the Canadian Grand Prix a week tomorrow, Hill faces a future of Formula One anonymity unless he acts quickly. He refuses to accept a role as an also-ran and has told Eddie Jordan he expects more from a team that lured him with a £4.5 million pay packet and a promise of a glorious end to his career.

Hill, on a two-year contract, has committed himself to Jordan this year, but there was the veiled threat that he may be forced to move if results do not change. "Some serious facing up to facts needs to be done by all of us," Hill, 37, said. "The time when you are not winning should be regarded as time lost and I don't want to continue in that way. Realistically, I have two years left and I want to get on with the job of winning and running at the front."

As Hill, testing his Jordan Mugen Honda at Silverstone, spoke, he weighed each sentence carefully, aware that a word out of place could cause a fracture in a team that is suffering its most traumatic season since it entered Formula One seven years ago.

The flamboyant Eddie Jordan is the sport's maverick entrepreneur, but he has been unable to break through to the front rank of Formula One. Hill, he believed, was the driver whose experience would be the final ingredient



Testing times: Hill's recent team switches have not produced the intended results and he may be forced to move on

needed to win Jordan's first grand prix. For Hill, Jordan's offer seemed to be a rescue from his unsuccessful move to Arrows last season and he basked in the warm welcome at the Jordan factory opposite the Silverstone circuit.

He speaks of his team with affection, but is clearly frustrated. The lack of performance from the Jordan and its

Mugen Honda engine had been a "surprise and a disappointment" and attempts to make improvements seemed to have made things worse.

Hill said: "It is about being clinically accurate with the work that is done and understanding the level of work and the standard that we are going to have to achieve. But it is a management job, part of

Eddie's job, to look at how the team can be injected with these higher standards and a better understanding, without upsetting the balance."

Hill had regarded the Monaco Grand Prix last Sunday as his "joker", when the Jordan would perform better on the narrow, slippery street circuit. Instead, the race was "a disaster", he said, qualify-

ing fifteenth on the grid and struggling home an undistinguished eighth, four places behind Mika Salo for Arrows, the team that he deserted. He fears that he will fare even worse in Montreal, a circuit that demands the power that his Jordan does not have.

Unless there is a transformation, Hill will end his Formula One career leaving the memory of a champion who lost his way, unable to sustain his talent, unlike so many before him, including Graham Hill, his father and a double world champion.

Yet he is one of Formula One's most successful drivers, with 21 victories achieved against the sort of adversity that would have broken many. In 1994, he had to revive the Williams team after the death of Ayrton Senna. He responded with dignity and six wins, narrowly losing the title to Michael Schumacher in a controversial last-race collision with the German.

When he won the championship in 1996, he had to drive knowing that he had been

**'I have two years left and want to get on with the job of winning'**

cruelly rejected by Frank Williams. His move to Arrows now seems hasty and ill-considered, though probably less damaging than his time so far at Jordan.

At least little was expected of him last year; this season, he thought that he would be racing to win. What hurts most is that Hill believes that he is at the pinnacle of his talent, yet is unable to find a car capable of carrying him to victory.

"I think I am driving better than at any time in my career," he said. "I regard it as a new challenge at Jordan, but I am no longer the sort of driver who can sit back and take what the team has to offer. Eddie wants me to be more involved and it is part of my role to be more demanding."

## RUGBY UNION

# Dawson strikes an upbeat note

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

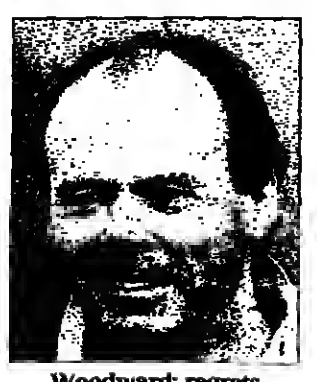
WITH all the bounce natural to his position of scrum half and his new status as captain, Matt Dawson accentuated the positive when England arrived in Brisbane yesterday to begin their tour of the southern hemisphere. "I think people are going to see some intense, physical and skilful performances," Dawson said.

"There are some very talented individuals in this squad. They have a golden opportunity to show that ability and we intend oozing the talent out of them." Predictably, England were greeted by a close examination of the reasons for the absence of so many experienced internationals.

"I wish players were contracted to the Rugby Football Union rather than their clubs," Clive Woodward, the coach, said. "There are guys back home who are genuinely worn out, given last summer's Lions tour then a long season of club rugby and injuries just got worse and worse. Next season, I will certainly be pushing behind the scenes for players to play the right number of games... I would like to think that this situation won't happen again." Ticket sales for the international against Australia at the Suncoast Stadium (capacity around 40,000) next Saturday are around 20,000.

"We will play in an unleashed manner and I believe we can cause Australia problems," Dawson said. "There is pace in the backs and strength and power up front. I believe we've got the players with the ability to produce that little something special that could make all the difference."

In Melbourne, Scotland will seek to put the demoralising



Woodward: regrets

Ireland have 14 internationals in their team against Boland today, the first game of their tour of South Africa, while Wales, who leave for southern Africa on Wednesday, will know today whether Allan Bateman can tour. The Richmond centre is due to have a nose operation on June 3, but the Welsh Rugby Union have asked their English counterparts to bring pressure on Richmond to uphold International Rugby Board regulations.







FOOTBALL SATURDAY

The England and Manchester United defender launches a new column exclusive to *The Times*

Nervous wait for players in catch-22

We are all supposed to be playing golf on our last two days out here in La Manga, but somehow I don't think it's going to be very relaxing. The final squad for France is announced on Monday and I know it's going to be an absolutely nightmarish day. I experienced it in the run-up to Euro 96. The day in Hong Kong, when Terry Venables told us who was in and who was out, is probably the worst day I can ever remember in terms of tension. Days like those are always going to happen in football. They are inevitable, but I wish there was another way.

There is no getting around it. I was one of the lucky ones two years ago and you do not know what to say or how to act with the lads who have been left out. You just worry that if you do have a word with one of them, they might think you're being smarmy. If you say "un-lucky", they might think you are being sarcastic. I remember the night before it happened in Hong Kong, my brother, Phil, and I were sitting with Jason Wilcox. He lives in Worsley, near to where we are in Bury, and we'd got quite close. He was saying he felt he was one of those that was touch and go, but I was telling him he would be OK. I was confident that he would go because he was a good bet for the left-sided role. When he was told the next day that he wasn't in the squad and I saw his face, it brought it home what a feeling it must be. I have seen it at Manchester United, too. When I was a first-

year apprentice, I remember watching the second-year apprentices going in to see the manager one by one to find out whether they were to be offered a contract. There were tears then as well from the ones who came out empty-handed. It is a desperate time. I think I should be in the squad and I'm confident about the rest of the United players, too, but the papers have been saying that Phil is one of the ones in an either/or situation. I'm 100 per cent confident he will be in, but it's bound to put doubts in his mind when he reads that it is between him and Andy Hinchieff for one place. I am not sharing with Phil out here because we've all got our own rooms, but we talk about it a lot, like all the other players. I've just told him a couple of times that he has got no worries. I hope I'm proved right. I have been putting in the absolute maximum in training, but I don't compare myself with



GARY NEVILLE the players that others might say are rivals for my position, such as Martin Keown or Gareth Southgate. I don't look at it as a rivalry. When I play, I try to play well and I let the manager make the choices. Whatever I believe doesn't matter because all I do is play football. But it is the waiting that is the worst thing in the world. In a lot of

ways, it would be great if the manager could have told us the squad last night, after the game against Belgium, and at least then you could go into the weekend knowing your position. But there is no other way to do it. He has to keep some players hanging on because if he had named the 22 two weeks ago and then Ian Wright had got injured, he would have had to call somebody else back and they might already have gone on holiday and got out of condition. What happened to Wright was dreadful. People talk about how important he was to the spirit of the camp and even though I don't know him that well, I would be happy if I had an ounce of his enthusiasm. He never stops talking and laughing and joking and it was brilliant to have people like him and Gazza around. We have lost a big character. You need people like that. People think that we should all be good

solid pros like Alan Shearer, David Seaman and Southgate, so the lads with outgoing personalities sometimes get stuck for it, but I'm a great believer that you need every type of character in a team. It would be boring if you were all great pros. Usually, the ones that are out of the ordinary off the pitch are the ones with the special talent and flair, too. Wright suffered a freak accident in Casablanca, but in the back of your mind, it makes you realise that even now, on the eve of selection for the biggest sports tournament in the world, you could get a two-week injury and the manager is not going to take a chance on you. At least the waiting is nearly over. We have all been picking our own 22s, trying to work out who will be in and out. It can drive you mad after a while and, anyway, you know it is all incidental really. In the end, it is just one man that matters.

Slack Scots eye chance of return to miserly best

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN WASHINGTON

WHATEVER may have been lacking in ornate rhetoric was more than made up for by idiomatic tang. "What we can't afford is to play miserably in this World Cup," Steve Sampson, the United States coach, said. He was suggesting only that his side will have to rise to the occasion, but Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, has the kind of muggle mind that might see him snatch up one phrase in that declaration. If the present Scotland were to be given its own coat of arms, the injunction "play miserably" ought surely to appear on it. Miserliness was the sustaining principle throughout ten World Cup qualifying matches that saw only three goals conceded. Jim Leighton, the goalkeeper, needed only a moment to review them and exempt the defence from blame. "A deflection, an unstoppable shot and a penalty when we were 4-0 ahead," he said concisely. Since making sure of their place, however, some of the rigour has gone out of Scotland's work. In four fixtures, six goals have been conceded. The 2-2 draw with Colombia in New Jersey last Saturday produced elation in some quarters for the nerve and subtle passing of Scotland's performance, but Brown's dissatisfaction with the failure to preserve a 2-1 lead was not the feigned cantankerousness of a coach who wishes to protect his image as a perfectionist.

This trip, which ends with the match against the United States today, has its recreational aspects, but the matches are being played with genuine solemnity. In a similar exercise, before Euro 96, Brown tried to ensure that every member of the party made an appearance and a high incidence of marginal figures in the side led to a 2-1 defeat by the United States in Connecticut. This time it is obvious that the games are being used to refine the battle plan for the tournament ahead. Despite seeing Paul Lambert and John Collins give more adroit performances in midfield than any Colombian, Brown still needs to see resilience reinstated. With group matches against Brazil and Norway, it would be folly to suppose that Scotland can trust in a breezy approach. The opposition will prey on weakness. In the past two weeks, Norway have beaten Mexico 5-2 and Saudi Arabia 6-0. Brown has a few concerns over injuries and it is unlikely that Gordon Durie, the Rangers forward, who has tweaked a hamstring, will take part today. The full complement of defenders is available, though, and stark efficiency will be demanded of them. Leighton should draw confidence from the fact that his place in the team is unchallengeable, now that Andy Goram has walked out on the squad



Brown, the Scotland manager, hopes to orchestrate tighter defensive work in the fixture against the United States

and announced his retirement from international football. His partnership with Colin Calderwood, Colin Hendry and Tom Boyd, the three centre backs, may have a chance of recovering its old durability against a United States side that laboured over the scoring of its goals while dominating a dismal Kuwait side in a 2-0 win in Portland, Oregon last Sunday. American ambitions are never to be taken lightly. A nation that kept President Kennedy's promise to put a man on the moon by the end of the 1960s should not be the

subject of sniggers when it announces its intention to win the World Cup by 2010. Such is the declared aim of the United States Soccer Federation. Fanciful though that target may appear, these are resolute people. A little-known stipulation of immigration law was used to ensure that citizenship was acquired for Dave Regis, a Martinique-born Frenchman who plays in the Bundesliga. He made his debut against Kuwait. With the arrival of Regis, Sampson's squad contains seven players who were born in other countries. After

all the genealogical investigations employed by Ireland while building their team, there is no cause for disdain over these methods. The coach has also fought to establish his own reputation. After he replaced the much-travelled Bora Milutinovic in 1994, critics alleged that Sampson would be a yoke in international football. Nevertheless, his side is improving, even if resources are unevenly distributed. There is developing talent, such as Eddie Pope, the young defender, who has rejected offers from several European

clubs, but English supporters who remember Roy Wegerle with Queens Park Rangers, Coventry City and Blackburn Rovers may be surprised to find that, at 34, he still plays a significant part in Sampson's schemes. UNITED STATES (probable): 3-6-11: K. Miller (Knoxville, Tenn.), E. Pope (DC United), T. Donohy (Columbus Crew), G. Regis (Martinique), C. Jones (Los Angeles Galaxy), B. Mesterson (Columbus Crew), E. Stewart (MAC Breida), C. Reyna (Wolfsburg), C. Deshaun (Washington, DC), D. Williams (DC United), R. Wierwille (Portland Timbers), SCOTLAND (probable): 3-5-2: J. Leighton (Aberdeen), G. Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), C. Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), T. Boyd (Celtic), C. Dooly (Derby County), J. McGovern (Celtic), P. Lambert (Celtic), J. Collins (AS Monaco), T. McInerney (Celtic), D. Johnston (Celtic), K. Gallacher (Blackburn Rovers).

Bergkamp still on the sidelines

DENNIS BERGKAMP is unlikely to be risked by Holland before their opening World Cup game against Belgium on June 13. The Arsenal forward is still recovering from the hamstring injury that kept him out of the FA Cup Final two weeks ago. Holland struggled to a goalless draw against Cameroon in Arnhem on Wednesday, when Ronald de Boer, who moved up from midfield to partner Patrick Kluibert as Bergkamp's replacement, missed his side's best chances to score. The Dutch will play Paraguay on Monday and Nigeria on Friday in their final World Cup warm-up matches.



WORLD CUP 98 IN THE TIMES

Jürgen Klinsmann is unlikely to start for Germany when they face Colombia in Frankfurt today because of a bruised shin. The Tottenham Hotspur striker, who is expected to form the Germans' first-choice striking partnership with Oliver Bierhoff in the World Cup, also missed the goalless draw in Finland on Wednesday. Berti Vogts, the Germany coach, insisted that little should be read into his team's lacklustre display in Helsinki. "We can't and shouldn't be in absolute top form yet," he said, "but overall, the players gave me too little. They should have fought more to give a better impression." Farid Mondragon, the Colombia goalkeeper, whose side are among England's first-round opponents in France, said he was not surprised by Germany's poor showing. "It's quite normal that teams don't play at the top level before a World Cup," he said. Jürgen Kohler, the Germany and Borussia Dortmund centre back, will make his hundredth international appearance today. Roberto Baggio, whose fine form and 22 goals for Bologna in Serie A this season has led

to his recall to the Italy squad for the World Cup, may yet win a starting place for their opening game in France against Chile. The forward is expected to face Sweden on Tuesday in Italy's final warm-up game because of an injury to Alessandro Del Piero. The Juventus forward may not be fit until Italy's second match in France, which could open the door for Baggio to play against the South Americans in Bordeaux on June 11. Baggio, who has appeared only once for Italy in the past three years, is likely to play up front alongside Christian Vieri, of Atlético Madrid. Baggio, who is close to a transfer from Bologna to Internazionale, scored five goals in three games to carry Italy to the World Cup final four years ago, but then fell out of favour with Arrigo Sacchi, then the Italy coach. Andoni Zubizarreta, the Spain captain and record capholder, has pulled out of the match against Northern Ireland in Santander on Wednesday with a leg injury. The 36-year-old goalkeeper, who has played 123 times for his country, is expected to be sidelined for about a week. The Valencia player, meanwhile, has been offered a job as assistant to Javier Clemente, the coach, after the World Cup. "He is the No 1 in the history of Spanish football and would be a great help to me," Clemente said.

Forest line up Anderlecht trial

NOTTINGHAM Forest could be ready for a rematch with Anderlecht — on the field as well as in the courts. Forest's preparations for their return to the FA Carling Premiership may include a meeting with the Belgian club in a tournament in Holland. Forest are taking Anderlecht to court after they admitted bribing the referee of the 1984 UEFA Cup semi-final between the two clubs. Anderlecht retrieved a two-goal deficit to win the tie, although they were beaten by Tottenham Hotspur in the final. Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, said the club had provisionally agreed to take part in the competition. "We will be going on a pre-season tour to Finland like we did last year, but are also hopeful that we can fit this in as well," he said. "It should form the final part of our preparations for the new season." Everton have been censured by the Football Association and ordered to pay the costs of

the hearing into an incident during one of their games last season. A disgruntled supporter ran on to the pitch during the 4-1 home defeat by Aston Villa in March. Everton were found to be in breach of FA rule 24 which relates to public order inside grounds. The safety manager system inside Goodison Park was judged to have failed to meet the necessary criteria. The FA committee took into account the fact that the supporter concerned has since been banned from the stadium. David Jones, the Southampton manager, is hoping to sign Carmine Esposito, an Italian striker, from Empoli. Esposito, who scored 12 goals in Serie A last season, also interests Tottenham, Blackburn Rovers and Anderlecht. Jones has already made a bid of £3.5 million for Matt Jansen, the Crystal Palace attacking midfielder. His attempt to sign Esposito and Jansen could clear the way for Egil Olsenstad, the Norway forward, to leave The Dell for £5 million. Jones said: "I'm actively seeking to strengthen our squad and I'm hoping to have news very soon." Brighton's hopes of returning to the town and playing at Withdean Stadium have been dealt a significant blow. John Prescon, the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, has directed Brighton and Hove Council not to grant planning permission for the project without his special authorisation. The Council received a letter from the Government yesterday saying that the ministry had received several represen-

tations from residents requesting that the application is called in for the Secretary of State's determination. Any further delay in dealing with the planning application could have severe repercussions for the football club, which played "home" matches at Priestfield Stadium, the home ground of Gillingham, last season. Ivor Caplin, the MP for Hove, is trying to persuade Mr Prescott to withdraw the directive. Blackburn will begin a three-match pre-season tour of Sweden with a match against Malmö, his former club. The game is scheduled for Monday, July 13 and will be followed by matches against Jonkopings five days later and Kristianstad on July 20. The Challenge Cup, the tournament open to clubs in the Scottish first, second and third divisions, has been ditched. It is the first indication of the growing financial worries of the lower division clubs after the breakthrough from the Scottish League yesterday of the ten leading clubs to form their own division. The Challenge Cup, first played for in 1991, has been without a sponsor since the end of an agreement with B & Q, the do-it-yourself store group, but has been backed by the Scottish League in the past two seasons. Falkirk were the last winners.

Blair anguish at sale of Ginola

KENNY DALGLISH, the Newcastle United manager, yesterday said the sale of David Ginola was out of his control, after the Prime Minister, a Newcastle supporter, criticised his decision to sell the French winger to Tottenham Hotspur. Tony Blair claimed that Ginola should never have been sold, as he went on to have an outstanding season after his £2 million transfer to White Hart Lane last year. Blair talks of his passion for the club in a Sunday newspaper tomorrow and says in the article: "I follow their [Newcastle's] progress closely. Closely enough to know we are not as bad as we seem — close enough to know we shouldn't have sold David Ginola." Dalglish, who replaced Kevin Keegan, the manager who bought the former Paris Saint-Germain player, defended the transfer and claimed that it was the Frenchman's decision to leave St James' Park. "My hands were tied," Dalglish said. "David Ginola had already made up his mind. This was made plain to me when he failed to return

for pre-season training and he'd made it plain he wanted to leave the club. I couldn't do anything about the situation. It had gone too far and in the end I decided I needed to concentrate on players who wanted to play for Newcastle United. I had nothing against him, but it was just circumstances — were out of my control." Dalglish has the backing of many Newcastle supporters. Mark Jensen, editor of the fanzine, *The Mag*, said: "It was right to sell Ginola and I am sure the vast majority of Newcastle fans would agree with me on this. He'd stopped playing for Newcastle about a year before he left the club." "The first five months he was on Tyneside, David was superb, but after that there was always the feeling among the fans that he was on a downward trend. We decided to have a poll before he departed the club on whether he should stay. In that poll, 82 per cent of the fans said he should go." "I believe that Dalglish's sales have been right, but what I would say is that some of his signings haven't worked out yet."

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

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CRICKET: QUICK BOWLERS EXPLOIT HELPFUL CONDITIONS IN QUEEN'S PARK CENTENARY MATCH

# Cork pushes claims for Test recall

CHESTERFIELD (first day of four, Leicestershire won toss) Derbyshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 175 runs behind Leicestershire

DERBYSHIRE were celebrating 100 years of playing on the delightful Queen's Park ground yesterday and the present team enjoyed it rather more than their forebears of 1898. Yorkshire closed the first day of that game on 533 for no wicket and a Derbyshire player, William Chatterton, is said to have ebbled his family: "We are confidently expecting to take a wicket any day now."



Sutcliffe, Leicestershire's top scorer, turns to see an edged stroke elude the Derbyshire slip fielders at Chesterfield yesterday

There was cause for more genuine confidence among the bowlers yesterday and Leicestershire could never conquer the constraints imposed by high quality seam and swing exponents in helpful conditions. They lost their last five wickets for 17 runs and, with David Lloyd, the England coach, watching from the pavilion balcony, Dominic Cork gave an impressive audition for the forthcoming Test series.

That Cork finished the morning wicketless did him no justice, for the bat was beaten regularly. He took two wickets in a lively ten-over spell after lunch and then, either side of tea, picked up three more to complete figures of five for 72, his best in the championship since 1995. His line and rhythm were exemplary, his outswinger was in good order and the occasional ball was notably brisk. It is far too early to say whether captaincy is good for Cork; indeed, there were early signs that it was tempting him too much himself.

Portentously, Cork beat Wells twice in his opening over, but the opening pair mustered 34 before DeFreitas found a good one for Maddy, the ball swinging away to provide Aldred with the first of his three catches at third slip, Maddy retreated looking forlorn and will not have been cheered to hear that two of his rivals for a Test place were in the runs.

Deant, the left-armers, offered a new problem for Leicestershire. His third ball accounted for Wells and he defeated Iain Sutcliffe three times in an over. Sutcliffe, however, has a sound temperament to go with a resourceful technique and he was past 50 before lunch, working anything stray through the on side with acquisitive relish.

Cork was into his thirteenth over when he took his first wicket and, like his next two, it came from a leg-before decision. Smith was caught only half-forward and after Sutcliffe had concluded his worthy 82 by walking for a catch behind, Cork removed Simmons and Nixon before tea.

## Franks puts obstacle in the path of Durham

By JACK BAILEY

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four, Durham won toss) Durham, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 144 runs behind Nottinghamshire

IT WAS all happening at Trent Bridge. Pneumatic drills sounded all day and, more enjoyably, there was a fine Topping Out ceremony for the new stand at the Radcliffe Road End. Steve Birks, the head groundsman, had also given the bowlers a chance to have their own fun on a grassy patch.

Without Paul Franks, the home team would have been in a fearful muddle. When he came in at 85 for five, nearly half their total was owed to extras. The good balls were being mixed with too many that were wayward and, in making his best first-class score, Franks was often fed his favourite ball — well up and on his legs.

## Oxford give some bite to innings on a dog day

By JOHN STERN

THE PARKS (first day of three, Oxford University won toss) Yorkshire, with nine first-wickets in hand, are 241 runs behind Oxford University

ONLY in the afternoon did the Oxford University batting really begin to resemble the bright and breezy weather. The cricket in the morning session and the period immediately after the interval was attritional, although Yorkshire's young troupe of seamers — Hoggard, Steadon and Hamilton — bowled tidily enough.

Overall, the Oxford batsmen acquitted themselves well and were able to declare on 260 for seven. Yorkshire lost the wicket of McGrath to Khan before the close. There were also three bizarre intrusions to keep people amused. A dog belonging to the correspondent of a rival newspaper scared the living daylight out of the Yorkshire slip cordon, the Yorkshire scorer made his way to the middle to complain to the umpires that the sixscreen obscured his and his colleague's view of the pitch and David Byas, the Yorkshire captain, was pestered for an autograph by a spectator who ran on to the field at the end of an over. Peculiar stuff at this most tranquil setting.

# Middlesex regret visual reality

LORD'S (first day of four, Middlesex won toss) Glamorgan have scored 293 for five wickets against Middlesex

THE most intriguing news to come out of Lord's yesterday stemmed from an announcement that Middlesex had signed a sponsorship deal with a local optician that will save the club — according to Vinny Condington, its chief executive — at least £5,000 in eye tests and glasses. Apparently, the county's players have been having their pre-season eyes tested for several years.

breaking an ankle. "I have hardly seen him when he has not been on a pair of crutches," Ian Gould, the club coach, said. Ian Blanchett, making his second championship appearance against Glamorgan, once injured himself in a collision with a sightscreen at Harrow. He has a cock-eyed view of life in the sense that 15 wicketless overs yesterday left him with a career record of one for 181, in which his sole victim is G A Hick.

Questions were also being asked about the visual trustworthiness of the Middlesex captain after Ramprakash chose to bowl yesterday on a pitch offering scant assistance. Ramprakash may claim that he was positioning himself for a fourth-innings run-chase.

His bowlers' optimism cannot have lasted much beyond the downfall of Shaw, the makeshift Glamorgan opener, to the eighth ball of the innings. To include Powell, who confirmed his promise with a cultured 43, the champions omitted Evans, James's natural opening partner, and Shaw's failure must have made his team-mates squint longingly in the direction of the England and Wales Cricket Board offices, in which the retired Hugh Morris now resides.

In putting on 107, James and Dale looked to be offering their side revenge for Middlesex dismissing them to a paltry 31 last year, but loose strokes cost their side dear. James squirted a drive to backward point and Maynard threw away a chance to complete his set of centuries against the other counties when he fell to an unconvincing hook.

# Hick century serves to frustrate

WORCESTER (first day of four, Worcestershire won toss) Worcestershire have scored 353 for nine wickets against Sussex

GRAEME HICK knew the despair of being stranded on 98. He has not forgotten how, three years ago, Michael Atherton declared in a Test match against Australia in Sydney when he stood two runs short of his hundred. Whether Hick would have taken confidence from an Ashes century to reproduce his county form at the highest level remains an issue in the hostilities of Worcestershire.

Two years have passed since Hick played a Test match and the momentum developing as he approaches the hundredth hundred of his fulfilled career might yet culminate in an England recall. At New Road yesterday, he moved from century No 98 to No 99 at the first opportunity after his 166 against Middlesex with such authority that the next one

will arrive either at Worcester or during a Test match. There was no irony in his words, but we know which is more likely. He bludgeoned 20 runs from his first deliveries alone and rarely missed a chance to dispatch anything loose. Khan, the leg-spinner, offended most regularly. In a spell of five balls, Hick pulled a full toss through mid-wicket and twice drove him through extra cover off the back foot as he progressed from 89 to 101.

When Sussex, second in the championship, found the right line. Weston and Solanki, the openers, offered catches to the cordon behind the wicket, and Haynes presented Adams with his second catch after adding 61 with Hick.

## YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score, Wickets, Overs. Includes Vodafone Challenge Series, Gloucestershire v South Africans, Bristol, and South Africans.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score, Wickets, Overs. Includes Middlesex v Glamorgan, Glamorgan, Middlesex, and Nottinghamshire v Durham.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score, Wickets, Overs. Includes University match, Oxford University v Yorkshire, and Worcestershire v Sussex.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score, Wickets, Overs. Includes Worcestershire v Sussex, Worcestershire, and Sussex.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score, Wickets, Overs. Includes One-day international, India v Kenya, and Sri Lanka v New Zealand.

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Table with 2 columns: Team, Score, Wickets, Overs. Includes Derbyshire v Leicestershire, Chesterfield, Leicestershire, and Derbyshire.

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# Surrey hopefuls suffer at the hands of Hooper

By PAT GIBSON

THE OVAL (first day of four, Surrey won toss) Surrey have scored 314 for nine wickets against Kent

IN DAYS gone by, when England had rather more cricketers capable of playing at the highest level than they have now, Test trials were staged to try to sort out the wheat from the chaff. Not that the selectors ever learnt very much.

One year at Bradford, Jim Laker made a mockery of the whole thing by taking eight for two. Another time, at Worcester, John Snow bowled leg breaks because he did not see the point of Geoff Boycott opening the second innings after he had made a century in the first. On another occasion, at Bristol, Derek Underwood wrapped up the match inside two days on a broken pitch.

It was much the same at The Oval yesterday, when we had the nearest thing we get to a Test trial these days. There are seven England players in the Surrey team and five more in the Kent side. At least eight of them have some chance of being picked for the first Test match against South Africa next Thursday.

However, only one of them looked the part on a pitch where Carl Hooper, of West Indies, returned figures of six for 83, the best of his career, and he happened to be Alec Stewart, who is sure of his Test places anyway.

The pitch was effectively three days old because it had been used for the Texaco Trophy match last week and the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final, which went into a second day. Since it was turning sharply before lunch, it should provoke an interesting family discussion between Paul Brind, the Surrey groundsman, and his father, Harry, the England and Wales Cricket Board's inspector of pitches.

There was nothing in it for the seam bowlers and Stewart and Butcher were able to put on 142 for the first wicket before Hooper, spinning the ball fiercely at a brisk pace, made the breakthrough. Butcher had just passed 50 when he tried to force Hooper on the off side and was caught behind. Stewart went in the next over, caught at slip off Patel, who he had hit for three sixes to go with the nine fours in his 86, whereupon Hooper exposed the shortcomings of the middle-order.

# Fleming hundred puts the heat on Sri Lanka

A CENTURY from Stephen Fleming, the captain, gave New Zealand the upper hand in the first Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday. Fleming, who scored 78 in the first innings, hit a six and 11 fours in an unbeaten 106 as New Zealand reached 260 for three in their second innings to lead by 280 with two days remaining. Craig McMillan was Fleming's partner in an unbroken partnership so far worth exactly 100. McMillan having scored 64 of the runs from 76 balls.

Mark Harrison, the team physiotherapist, had to make frequent visits to the middle with anti-dehydration pills, drinks and ice-packs to help Fleming keep going during his five-hour innings in oppressive heat. It was only Fleming's second century in 35 Tests, his first coming against England in Auckland during the 1996-97 tour by Michael Atherton's side.

Nathan Astle made 34 of the third-wicket stand of 92 with Fleming before being caught behind off Sanath Jayasuriya. Matthew Horne, who made 35, was the more successful of the opening pair, for Bryan Young had reached only 11 when he was out leg-before.



Hick: 99th hundred



Hooper: six wickets



CRICKET: RHODES WEIGHS IN WITH JAUNTY HALF-CENTURY AS MEDIUM-PACERS ARE MADE TO SUFFER

# Kirsten strikes timely run of form

BY IVO TENNANT

BRISTOL (first day of four: South Africans won toss): The South Africans have scored 337 for seven wickets against Gloucestershire

SUCH is the helter-skelter schedule of international cricket that this is the South Africans' last match before the first Test starts next week. It seems as if they have only just arrived in England, but no matter. The side that Hansie Cronje and Bob Woolmer put out yesterday did not exactly score runs all the way down the order, but there were sufficient contributions to keep them in good heart. Gary Kirsten made 125 and Jonty Rhodes batted with characteristic ebullience.

The South Africa side for the first Test is pretty much settled. McMillan and Rhodes, who made a half-century yesterday, are competing for a place in the middle order and Ntini. If he does something startling over the next few days, may play ahead of Klusener. As for Donald and Pollock, little, if anything, will be seen of them in matches other than the Tests for the remainder of the tour.



Kirsten pulls a ball from Lewis on his way to a century at Bristol yesterday. Photograph: Ben Radford / Allsport

Kirsten has not been in quite the same touch as Kallis, but he relished the line that the Gloucestershire medium-pacers maintained yesterday. Of the 19 fours in his century, more than half were punched

away through the cover ring. Only Smith, whose one Test appearance seems an age ago, provided a different angle to that of Lewis, Alleyne, Averis and Hancock.

There was nothing in the pitch on this first day for Ball's off spin. Alleyne did have an effective spell, in which he had Liebberg caught at second slip, driving away from his body, and Kallis, who has achieved five half-centuries in

eight innings on this tour, caught at the wicket off an inside edge. Smith then yorked Cullinan, who got his feet in a tangle trying to keep out an inswinger. If Walsh had been playing,

this would have been the moment for him to contend with the middle order. He was excused, as was Russell, on the grounds that they have been playing cricket continuously this year.

Kirsten will not be given similar opportunities to utilise his off-drive at Edgbaston. Or, to be more accurate, he should not be. Kirsten batted until 50 minutes after tea, when, looking to late-cut Ball, he edged to slip. He faced, in all, 266 balls and struck 21 fours.

The most enjoyable period of the day, watched by the kind of crowd Gloucestershire seem unable to attract for championship matches, came when he was partnered by Rhodes. They added 96 through some effusive stroke-play.

When Rhodes was stumped by Williams, he had struck seven fours in a half-century off 62 balls. McMillan went cheaply, well held by Hancock at square leg, but he retains the keenness as well as the experience to offer a considerable amount to the South Africa selectors. Peter Pollock, the convenor, arrives in England next week and will have his say in who plays at Edgbaston.

GOLF

# Magnificent McGinley takes charge

FROM MEL WEBB IN HAMBURG

IT WAS a perfect day for golf and there was perfect golf on the day. The best players in Europe took on the Gut Kaden course in the first round of the Deutsche Bank SAP Open yesterday, toyed with it and finally, almost to a man, sent it packing. It was not even a contest.

Anybody finishing above par on the opening day of an event that doubles as the Tournament Players' Championship of Europe was either in seriously dreadful form or affected by the heat and humidity that turned this part of northern Germany into a vast open-air sauna. This is Schleswig-Holstein, for goodness sake: it is not supposed to be hotter and stickier than Rangoon.

Red birdie figures lined the scoreboards round the course and nobody had more of them next to his name than Paul McGinley. The great and the good of European golf are appearing in this tournament and the ambitious Dubliner yearns to be one of them. The golf that he produced would have pleased the best.

McGinley had a 65, seven under par, a shot ahead of Peter Mitchell, the Portuguese Open champion, with a 14-man detachment that included Colin Montgomerie, Darren Clarke, Mark O'Meara, Bernhard Langer and Mark James on 67. When things get this tight, little things mean a lot and, on the day McGinley had the little things taped.

The stocky Dubliner summed up his round succinctly. "My driving was good, my iron-play was good, my chipping was good and my putting was good," he said. The only blemishes even this

most self-critical of golfers could find was that he missed a couple of greens on the inward half. He felt there was still room for improvement. Where, one wonders.

He had four birdies in succession from the 3rd, added more on the 6th and 8th and turned in 31, already five under par. He had only to take the most obvious of his opportunities on the remaining nine holes to bring home a challenging score, and this he did with birdies on the 13th and 17th.

McGinley wants to be a better player than he already is and is prepared to stake his time and money to help in his improvement. He has entered for the US Open and, unless something untoward happens in the next few days, will sacrifice two lucrative tournaments in England to play in the final qualifying competition in New Jersey on June 9.

The result of 36 holes of golf on that day will be a starring place at the Olympic Club in San Francisco the following week. Between 20 and 25 places are available out of 120 entries in the final qualifying. It is fervently to be hoped that McGinley's golf on that day is better than his maths was yesterday. He said he thought he had a one in ten chance of success; the abacus tells a different story.

Montgomerie was curiously dismissive after his round; it is a measure of his relentless quest for perfection that he could be so after a 67. He suggested it should have been much lower. "I left five putts short and bang in the middle of the hole," he said. The answer is simple — he will just have to hit it a bit harder.

OXFORD EIGHTS

Club	Score
1. Oxford University	21
2. Brasenose	22
3. Exeter	23
4. St John's	24
5. St Antony's	25
6. St Cross	26
7. St Edmund Hall	27
8. St Hugh's	28
9. St Peter's	29
10. St Thomas	30
11. St Antony's	31
12. St Cross	32
13. St Edmund Hall	33
14. St Hugh's	34
15. St Peter's	35
16. St Thomas	36
17. St Antony's	37
18. St Cross	38
19. St Edmund Hall	39
20. St Hugh's	40
21. St Peter's	41
22. St Thomas	42
23. St Antony's	43
24. St Cross	44
25. St Edmund Hall	45
26. St Hugh's	46
27. St Peter's	47
28. St Thomas	48
29. St Antony's	49
30. St Cross	50
31. St Edmund Hall	51
32. St Hugh's	52
33. St Peter's	53
34. St Thomas	54
35. St Antony's	55
36. St Cross	56
37. St Edmund Hall	57
38. St Hugh's	58
39. St Peter's	59
40. St Thomas	60
41. St Antony's	61
42. St Cross	62
43. St Edmund Hall	63
44. St Hugh's	64
45. St Peter's	65
46. St Thomas	66
47. St Antony's	67
48. St Cross	68
49. St Edmund Hall	69
50. St Hugh's	70
51. St Peter's	71
52. St Thomas	72
53. St Antony's	73
54. St Cross	74
55. St Edmund Hall	75
56. St Hugh's	76
57. St Peter's	77
58. St Thomas	78
59. St Antony's	79
60. St Cross	80
61. St Edmund Hall	81
62. St Hugh's	82
63. St Peter's	83
64. St Thomas	84
65. St Antony's	85
66. St Cross	86
67. St Edmund Hall	87
68. St Hugh's	88
69. St Peter's	89
70. St Thomas	90
71. St Antony's	91
72. St Cross	92
73. St Edmund Hall	93
74. St Hugh's	94
75. St Peter's	95
76. St Thomas	96
77. St Antony's	97
78. St Cross	98
79. St Edmund Hall	99
80. St Hugh's	100

# Ratcliffe through to final at Walton

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

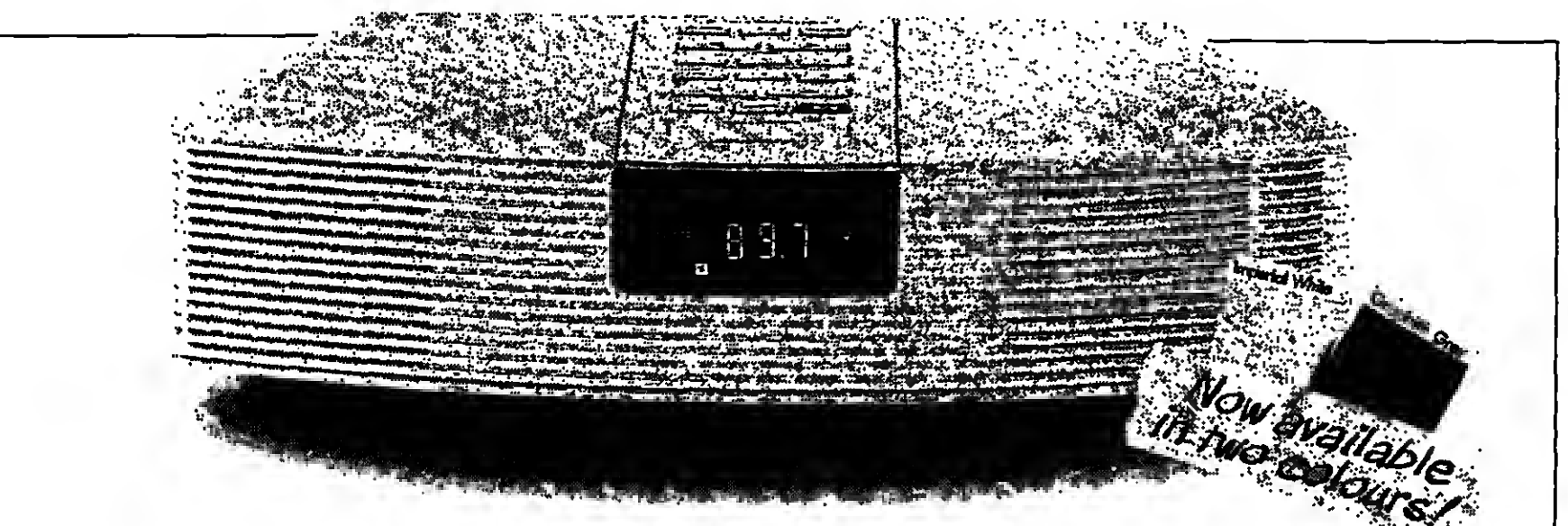
ELAINE RATCLIFFE clawed her way into the final of the English women's Amateur Championship with a narrow victory over Karen Stupples, her Curtis Cup colleague, in the semi-finals at Walton Heath yesterday, while Lisa Walters, of Derbyshire, proved too strong for Sarah Heath, a willowy 16-year-old from Shropshire.

On a beautiful bright, breezy day, Ratcliffe, from Sandiway, defeated Kim Rostrom, the defending champion, from Clitheroe, who was not at her best — "I just wasn't there," she said — with relative ease. The match finished on the 15th, which, ironically, was where the game in the afternoon, against Stupples, started to turn Ratcliffe's way.

The Cheshire champion, who is also the holder of the Finnish title, was three down after ten and struggling to find her form. "My swing felt a bit wacky," she said, "as though it had no purpose to it and my putting wasn't good either." She hit her first really solid shot of the afternoon at the short 11th — a four-iron to the heart of the green, after Stupples had hit her tee shot long and left. The Kent woman then dutifully chipped and lost the hole.

Ratcliffe continued the reeling-in with a birdie four to win the 13th, but then under this good work when she attempted to lose the 14th to a birdie and found herself two behind again. Stupples hit a nine-iron over the green at the 15th — "That was an awful shot," she conceded — and Ratcliffe drew level with a birdie four at the next, where she hit a majestic four-iron to the back of the green after Stupples had tangled with Walton Heath's penal-heather off the tee.

Ratcliffe took the lead for the first time with a par three at the 17th, where Stupples cleared the green and ended up in another tangle of rough, and they halved the 18th in bogey five, with Stupples three-putting after Ratcliffe had bunkered her second shot. In the other semi-final, Walters, a positive 18-year-old from Derbyshire, who spent the winter in Portugal honing her game in order to prove herself this season, ran away from the gallant Heath with birdies at the 14th, 15th — the little punched nine-iron she hit to three feet there was a gem of control and confidence — and 16th to win all three holes and the match.



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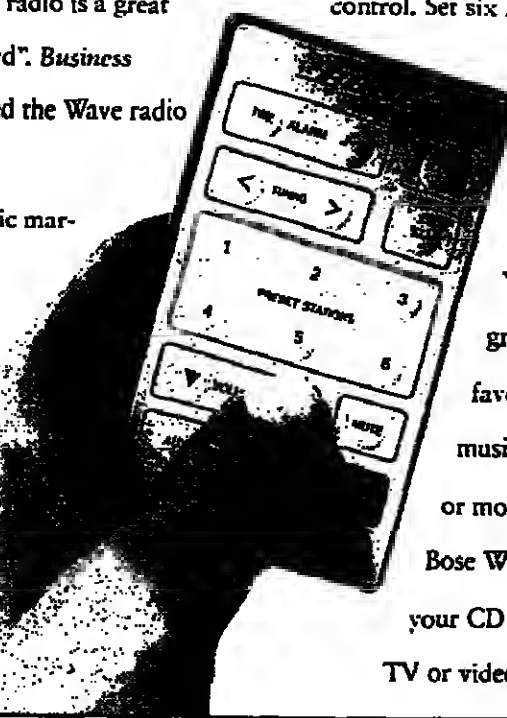
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# FORTH COMPANY

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Date	Company name
29 MAY	EPIC SPORTS
29 MAY	CAPITAL ASSET FINANCE LIMITED
29 MAY	CLARE INVESTMENTS
29 MAY	ERIC INSURANCE SERVICES
29 MAY	SHRIMP FREIGHT
29 MAY	SCHROEDER SPANOLA
29 MAY	THE CHINESE BANK
29 MAY	APPELL & CO
29 MAY	STANFORD INDUSTRIAL CONCRETE PRODUCTS
30 MAY	WATERLOO INDUSTRIAL CONCRETE PRODUCTS
31 MAY	CALTEX SERVICES
1 JUN	OXFORD OIL
1 JUN	ROCHESTER INVESTMENTS
2 JUN	ADAS
2 JUN	INTERTECH
2 JUN	BP CHEMICALS
2 JUN	JEAN TRUCK & BUS SALES LTD
2 JUN	NATIONAL TRUCKS
2 JUN	SEWARD INVESTMENTS
3 JUN	FLEOVIT JUNK LTD
3 JUN	HUNTERS
3 JUN	CONSLA
3 JUN	MAE & JONES
3 JUN	MEEPEREY
3 JUN	WORTHGATE MOTOR HOLDINGS LTD
3 JUN	SCHROEDER SPORTS
3 JUN	SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN
4 JUN	AXA GLOBAL
4 JUN	DAEWOO LIFT TRUCKS
4 JUN	TRUCK DISTRIBUTION
4 JUN	HUGH JAMES
4 JUN	LAWRENCE GRANAN RENOVATIONS
4 JUN	SG
4 JUN	TAYLOR WOODSON PROPERTY INVESTMENTS
4 JUN	THREADNEEDLE ASSET MANAGEMENT
4 JUN	TOLLIT & PEARCE
4 JUN	ABLE INSTRUMENTS & CONTROLS LTD
5 JUN	ARZO NIGEL CHEVY LTD
5 JUN	ARTHUR ANDERSEN
5 JUN	CHEMETALL LTD
5 JUN	KPMG
5 JUN	NATIONAL STARCH CHEMICALS LTD
5 JUN	OSBORNE MORRIS & MORRAN NEUROLOGISTS
5 JUN	SEACONTINERE SERVICES
5 JUN	SHAWMAC LIMITED
5 JUN	STATUE GROUP PLC
5 JUN	THE TORRINTO-DOMINION BANK

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Four-letter word may hold the key for success of some leading golfers

# Swinging lovers thrive on fairways

In golf, the four-letter word is king. The word is not chip nor putt, fade nor fore, draw nor sand. What is putting a pep into so many make golfers' putting is that old, old word, love.

Whether in the United States or in Europe, one professional after another is demonstrating the beneficial effects on their game of *amour propre*. It seems to be putting power into their drives, accuracy into their putting, steadiness into their trembling hands and steel into their nerves.

Just take the events over the past weekend. In the US, Tom Watson belted his age, 48, to win only his second tournament in nine years. Watson, who is divorcing Lynda, has rededicated himself to his golf since the troubles with his wife became public and, helped by the support of a new companion, has given up even the little he used to drink in favour of a spell on the wagon. The results speak for themselves. Watson appears to be putting better than he has done for years.

Meanwhile at Wentworth last weekend, Colin Montgomerie spoke of the beneficial effects of having a stable, caring family. "It helps if you have a settled family life," Montgomerie said. "It gives your morale a big boost to know you have a lot of support from the family."

So saying, Montgomerie went out to win the Volvo PGA Championship last Monday, the biggest prize in golf in Britain outside the Open. But to do so, he had to hold off the challenge of two young men from Scandinavia, both of whom are clearly in love and, not coincidentally, playing the best golf of their careers.

Patrik Sjoland is a 27-year-old Swede who won the recent Italian Open and finished seventh and second in his past two tournaments. Sjoland is at the top of his form and one



reason is because he has his girlfriend, Ulrika Malm, caddying for him all the time.

"It is great to have her around because it is so hard to be away from one another for long spells," Sjoland said. "She helps me mentally. She helps me focus on shots and we also talk about other things in between shots. It makes me more relaxed."

Malm first caddied for Sjoland for five tournaments in 1996. It was not a success and Sjoland did not use her as a caddie in 1997. But this year all has been different. Now more relaxed with her walking alongside him in every one of the 11 events in which he has competed on the European tour, Sjoland finished second in Qatar in March and at Wentworth he set a target of 13 under par that Montgomerie only managed to beat by one stroke.

Thomas Bjorn was another who was snapping at Montgomerie's heels in the final round of the Volvo PGA Championship. The Dane played well on his debut in the Ryder Cup last autumn. Before the start of the biennial



The Swedish player, Patrik Sjoland, has found his fortunes on the European tour have improved dramatically since his girlfriend, Ulrika Malm, took over as his caddie

match against the United States Bjorn was noted for what he said. "This is where I want to be. There is no running home to Mummy now." Afterwards, Bjorn remembered for the way he played, fighting back in the singles from four down to halve with Justin Leonard, the Open champion and perhaps at the time the strongest player in the US team.

Good as that might have been, there was better to come when Bjorn decided to move to Dubai and set up home with Pernilla Waldenstram, a Swedish lawyer. "She is wonderful," Bjorn said. "She gives me a lot of confidence." The results prove it. The new prince of Denmark has won twice on the European tour already this year and has had a fourth and a third as well.

What these three men have found is nothing new, even if it is new to them. Since time immemorial women have helped men in their sporting quests, just as many men have uncomplainingly powered the sporting drives of women. Whether it is a man helping a woman or a woman helping a man does not appear to matter. The resulting uncomplaining support of one seems to act like an elixir on the other.

Jack Nicklaus seems to have benefited from it all his life though Barbara, his wife, has scarcely touched a golf club. Barbara Nicklaus has stood by her man as he became the greatest golfer of the 20th century, amassing 18 major professional titles.

One day in 1990, Nicklaus was being driven through a Scottish glen on a night as black as coal. "You know the best thing I ever did was to marry Barbara," he said quietly. "No question about it. I am sure I would not have achieved as much as I have if it had not been for Barbara."

As Barbara Nicklaus has

proved, it is not necessary to know anything about golf or to have played the game. Malm, 26, the daughter of a lorry driver, does not play golf and does not have sufficient technical knowledge to be able to assess Sjoland's swing or make suggestions if he is not quite striking the ball perfectly. What she does know is her man, how to get him up or help him restrain his emotions.

"She knows me better than anyone else," Sjoland said. "She can calm me down when necessary. It is good to have her around the whole time. We have had some good times together and I think there are better ones ahead."

Few women experienced more successful times with a professional golfer than Toots Cotton, wife of the late Sir Henry. The spirited daughter

of the opening hole of their first match did not remain on the fairway, rolling instead just in to the semi-rough. Toots was so incensed she marched up to the ball and instead of hitting it towards the green, smacked it firmly back towards the tee, from where Cotton had to play it again.

"I told you Henry, keep it on the fairway or else," Toots said.

No modern golfer has come under the female spell as much as Nick Faldo, who was brought up by a determined mother who had deep ambitions for her only child.

"We wanted Nick to be an actor," she has recalled. "We thought he'd be another Oliver. We took him to dancing and elocution lessons. We tried to interest him in music. We knew he could win the Tchaikovsky prize. He has smashing legs and I wanted him to be a model so I used to take him to Harrods fashion shows. Finally we realised he was only interested in sport."

Three more women helped to mould Faldo into the most successful British golfer of modern times, the winner of six major championships. There was Gill, his second wife, to whom he was married while he won five of his major championships, and there remains Fanny Sunesson, the only female caddie among golf's top players, who has caddied for Faldo since early 1990 during which time he has won one Masters and two Opens.

Then late in 1995 Faldo left Gill for Brenna Cepelak, a 21-year-old student he had met in the United States. Once more Cupid drew back his arrow and, only a few months later, Faldo, clearly besotted by Cepelak, staged a remarkable comeback to overtake Greg Norman in the fourth round of the Masters and win his sixth major title.



Malm lacks golf expertise but keeps Sjoland calm on the course where so much is down to mental attitude

## Passion for the game that knows no bounds

Men are the world's great romantics. Women, of necessity, are more clear-eyed and practical and, when it comes to love and romance and golf, Mary Queen of Scots set the tone. Shortly after her husband, Lord Darnley, was murdered — at her behest, admittedly — she was seen baiting the ball around on the links at Leith. The subsequent tut-tutting became such a chorus of disapproval that it proved a fatal handicap, but over the years, it is difficult to uncover any woman whose golfing form, be it good, bad or indifferent, owed much at all to her emotional state.

Logically — although logic is not a quality traditionally attributed to women — it would seem that how you are feeling should affect everything you do, including swinging a golf club or holding a putt. Providing hard evidence that that is the case, is a difficult matter.

Reliable sources have come up with a player — no names, for reasons that will become clear — who was at her peak on the course only if she had made mad, passionate love the night before. No sex, no win was a rough guide to her championship record, which could be described as erratic.

Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, the Frenchwoman who has been one of Europe's leading players as an amateur and a professional for nearly two decades, maintained her form during the unpleasantness of a divorce a few years ago.

"It was a relief to be on the course," she admitted, but not everyone has the nous to see the course as a sanctuary at such a time, or the powers of concentration to give yardages their full attention.

Newly-wedded bliss may or may not make the game go with a swing. Certainly, it did not help Dottie Mochrie in the Curtis Cup at Prairie Dunes in 1986. Married for a couple of weeks, she duffed her opening drive and the United States team never recovered and were hammered by a Great Britain and Ireland side whose captain would not allow them to dive into the swimming pool — temperatures topped 100F — let alone into bed.

To these computerised, logistical, statistical times, it must surely be possible to quantify the effect of love on golf. The fiery Mochrie, now a successful professional, who has divorced and remarried, would be an ideal case study. It could be significant that she has reverted to her maiden name of Pepper.

‘We have had some good times together and I think there are better ones ahead’

of an Argentinian industrialist, she set high standards for him to meet. Once she sent him away from the dinner table three times to change before she was satisfied with his clothes.

As a partnership they won the Calcut Foursomes on more than one occasion. In the years when Cotton was the reigning Open champion, Toots used to say she found he had ideas above his station. "Just keep me on the fairway and we will win as usual," Cotton used to say airily to his wife, who, in part thanks to his coaching, became good enough to win the Austrian Ladies Open.

"You keep me on the fairway or else," Toots responded with a flash of her fiery temperament.

One year Cotton's drive on

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One year Cotton's drive on



Toots Cotton, took a firm line with her husband, Henry; Tom Watson and his soon to be ex-wife, Lynda, celebrate winning the 1975 Open



**FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS**

The companies listed have registered their golf day for the 1998 Challenge. The top four individual scores on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

**Meas Pierson**

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
29 MAY	BRITISH STEEL	WHITBY	36
29 MAY	CAPITAL ASSET	FRILFORD HEATH	26
29 MAY	FINANCE LIMITED	ONE MANOR	30
29 MAY	CLARIS INTERNATIONAL	MENTMORRE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	128
29 MAY	ERIC INSURANCE SERVICES LTD	MENTMORRE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	128
29 MAY	MHC EXPRESS MAIL	CASTLE ROYLE	50
29 MAY	SCHROEDER / SKANDIA	BOWWOOD	45
29 MAY	THE CHILDREN'S WARD	CAMBERLEY HEATH	88
29 MAY	APPEAL FRIMLEY PARK HOSPITAL NHS TRUST		
30 MAY	STANFORD INDUSTRIAL CONCRETE FLOORING LTD	NAWKSTONE PARK HOTEL	12
31 MAY	MULTITRACK COMPONENTS LTD	WAVENDON	96
1 JUN	CITROEN UK	NOTTS	30
1 JUN	RICHARDSONS INTERIORS	ORMEAU	52
2 JUN	ADAS	SHIFNAL	90
2 JUN	AUTOLOGIC INFORMATION INTERNATIONAL LTD	MENTMORRE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	40
2 JUN	BP CHEMICALS	BLAIRGOWRIE	16
2 JUN	JBA (UK) LIMITED	FOREST OF ARDEN	50
2 JUN	MAN TRUCK & BUS UK LTD	MERE G & CC	40
2 JUN	NATIONAL INVESTIGATION SERVICE HM CUSTOMS & EXCISE	HATFIELD LONDON COUNTRY CLUB	40
3 JUN	FLEXOVIT (UK) LTD	THE TYTHERRINGTON CLUB	40
3 JUN	HUNTERS KIL HOWARD CONSULTING LTD	STONE PAGES	20
3 JUN	IRACE & JONES	NESWALL	40
3 JUN	MEESPIERSON NV	MENTMORRE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	60
3 JUN	NORTHGATE MOTOR NOLOMES LTD	CASTLE ROYLE	90
3 JUN	SCHROEDER / SKANDIA SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN	MOORTOWN	48
4 JUN	AXA GLOBAL RISKS (UK) LTD	WORPLESDON	38
4 JUN	AXA GLOBAL RISKS (UK) LTD	CUDDINGTON	64
4 JUN	DAEWOO LIFT TRUCKS / LIFT TRUCK DISTRIBUTION	BUCKINGHAM	35
4 JUN	HUGH JAMES SOLICITORS	WHITCHURCH (CARDIFF)	60
4 JUN	LAWRENCE GRAHAM	RAG COUNTRY CLUB	68
4 JUN	RENAUCRES HALL HOSPITAL	FORMBY	24
4 JUN	SG	ST GEORGES HILL	80
4 JUN	TAYLOR WOODROW PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LTD	BIRCHWOOD PARK	16
4 JUN	THREADNEEDLE ASSET MANAGEMENT	EAST BERKSHIRE	35
4 JUN	TOLLY & HARVEY LTD	WOODHALL SPA	25
5 JUN	ABLE INSTRUMENTS & CONTROL LTD	LETHAM GRANGE	44
5 JUN	AKZO NOBEL CHEMICALS	NORTHAMPTON	100
5 JUN	ARTHUR ANDERSEN	WALTON HEATH	50
5 JUN	CHEMETALL LTD	WALSALL	46
5 JUN	KPMG	MANNINGS NEATH	48
5 JUN	NATIONAL STARCH & CHEMICAL LTD	THE WARWICKSHIRE	120
5 JUN	OSBORNE MORRIS & MORRIS NEUROLAWYERS	LEIGHTON BUZZARD	46
5 JUN	SEA CONTAINERS SERVICES LTD	LEATHERHEAD	24
5 JUN	SHAWINAC LIMITED	LISBURN	76
5 JUN	STATUS GROUP PLC	STOCKLEY PARK	40
5 JUN	THE TORONTO-DOMINION BANK	FOREST OF ARDEN	18

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THE TIMES WORLD CUP FANTASY LEAGUE

# Enter now to win cash

As the best players in the world gather in France for what promises to be one of the most exciting World Cup tournaments ever staged, *The Times* has teamed up with Fantasy League, the original fantasy football game, to give you the chance to choose your own team from the cream of the world's footballers. Simply pick 11 players from all those who will be vying for your attention this summer - it couldn't be easier.

**HOW TO PLAY**  
Select a team of 11 players from the list below. You can enter anytime, by post or phone, until June 10. You can

only choose one player from any national team and you must select a 4-4-2 formation (a goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders and two strikers). From 6am on June 2, when all World Cup squads will be confirmed, until noon on June 9, you will be able to transfer as many players as you wish on our transfer line. From the start of the World Cup until noon on July 3, you will be able to make a further six transfers. After noon on June 30 you will be able to select a maximum of two players from the same national team. Full details of the transfer system will appear in *The Times* from June 10.

**THE SCORING SYSTEM**  
Players will score points as follows:

- Goal 3 points
- Assists 2 points
- Defender/Goalkeeper Appearance 1 point for a defender or goalkeeper playing 45 minutes or more of a match, including extra time
- Defender/Goalkeeper Clean Sheet 3 points (2 points for clean sheet, 1 appearance point)
- Defender/Goalkeeper goal against -1 point

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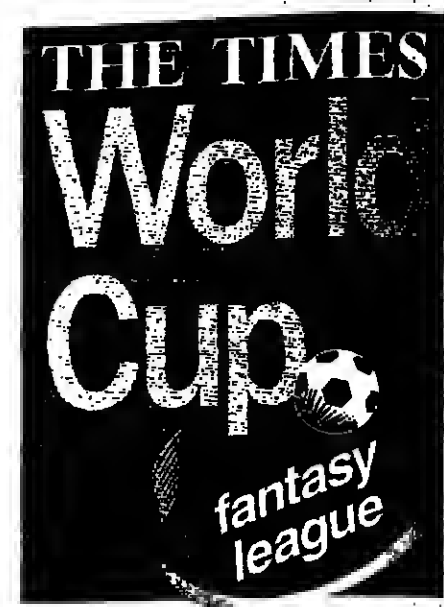
Assists points awarded to a team-mate making the last pass before a goal is scored. Only applicable to members of the scoring team. If the last touch before a goal scorer is from a team-mate but his touch does not significantly alter the speed or direction of the ball, then two separate assists are given, one for each of the players setting up the goal. If the last touch before a goal scorer is by an opposing player and it significantly alters the speed or direction of the ball, then no assist is given. In the event of a penalty, the fouled player gets an assist if the penalty is successfully scored, but not if he takes it

himself in which case no assist is given. No assist is given for a player who earns a free kick which subsequently results in a goal. The decision of Fantasy League will be final on these matters.  
Appearance points awarded to a defender or goalkeeper who is on the pitch for at least 45 minutes including extra time. Defenders or goalkeepers appearing in only part of a game will lose points for goals conceded while playing. If no goals are conceded while they are playing, they will be awarded a clean-sheet, if they are on the field for 75 minutes or more including extra-time.  
Extra Time & Penalty Shoot-

Outs: extra time (golden goal) goal and assists are awarded as above. For extra time goals points are deducted against the goalkeeper and defenders as above. No points are awarded for penalty shoot-out goals.  
Full details of how to check your team score will appear in *The Times* from the beginning of June.  
Use the list below to pick your world-beating 11, then enter using the coupon or by calling our hotline on:

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Helpline: 01562 702 720, weekdays 9am to 6pm.



**GOALKEEPERS**

Code	Player	Country	Caps	Goals
101	Carlos Roa	ARGENTINA	9	0
102	Pablo Cavallero	ARGENTINA	4	0
103	Michael Konsel	AUSTRIA	38	0
104	Franz Wohlfahrt	AUSTRIA	35	0
105	Filip de Wilde	BELGIUM	20	0
106	Taffarel	BRAZIL	92	0
107	Carlos Gormano	BRAZIL	8	0
108	Boris Mikhailov	BULGARIA	101	0
109	Zdravko Zdravkov	BULGARIA	15	0
110	Jacques Song'o	CAMEROON	48	0
111	Nelson Tapia	CHILE	25	0
112	Marcelo Ramirez	CHILE	10	0
113	Oscar Cordoba	COLOMBIA	45	0
114	Farid Mondragon	COLOMBIA	21	0
115	Drazen Ladic	CROATIA	38	0
116	Marijan Mirmic	CROATIA	18	0
117	Peter Schmeichel	DENMARK	98	0
118	Mogens Krogh	DENMARK	7	0
119	David Seaman	ENGLAND	39	0
120	Tim Flowers	ENGLAND	10	0
121	Nigel Martyn	ENGLAND	6	0
122	Bernard Lama	FRANCE	36	0
123	Fabien Barthez	FRANCE	11	0
124	Andreas Kopke	GERMANY	51	0
125	Olivier Kahn	GERMANY	9	0
126	Ed de Goey	HOLLAND	29	0
127	Edwin van der Sar	HOLLAND	22	0
128	Ahmadreza Abedzadeh	IRAN	65	0
129	Gianluca Pagliuca	ITALY	33	0
130	Angelo Peruzzi	ITALY	22	0
131	Warren Barrett	JAMAICA	128	0
132	Yoshiyuki Kawaguchi	JAPAN	24	0
133	Jorge Campos	MEXICO	100	0
134	Abdelkader El Brazi	MOROCCO	36	0
135	Willy Okpara	NIGERIA	5	0
136	Frode Grodas	NORWAY	37	0
137	Jose Luis Chilavert	PARAGUAY	36	4
138	Ruben Ruiz Diaz	PARAGUAY	11	0
140	Bogdan Stelea	ROMANIA	45	0
141	Florin Prunea	ROMANIA	34	0
142	Andre Arendse	SOUTH AFRICA	27	0
143	Brian Baloji	SOUTH AFRICA	6	0
144	Mohammed Al-Deayea	SAUDI ARABIA	94	0
145	Jim Leighton	SCOTLAND	85	0
146	Andy Goram	SCOTLAND	42	0
147	Neil Sullivan	SCOTLAND	2	0
148	Kim Byung-Ji	SOUTH KOREA	31	0
149	Andoni Zubizarreta	SPAIN	123	0
149	Santiago Canizares	SPAIN	9	0
150	Ali Boumifjel	TUNISIA	11	0
151	Brad Friedel	USA	53	0
152	Kasey Keller	USA	26	0
153	Aleksandar Kocic	YUGOSLAVIA	15	0
154	Ivica Kralj	YUGOSLAVIA	15	0

**DEFENDERS**

Code	Player	Country	Caps	Goals
201	Nestor Sensini	ARGENTINA	42	0
202	Jose Chamot	ARGENTINA	35	2
203	Roberto Ayala	ARGENTINA	35	0
204	Javier Zanetti	ARGENTINA	29	1
205	Pablo Paz	ARGENTINA	10	1
206	Anton Pfeffer	AUSTRIA	53	1
207	Peter Schottel	AUSTRIA	50	0
208	Wolfgang Feiersinger	AUSTRIA	36	0
209	Martin Hiden	AUSTRIA	2	0
210	Bertrand Crasson	BELGIUM	15	1
211	Eric van Meir	BELGIUM	12	1
212	Philippe Leonard	BELGIUM	9	0
213	Aldair	BRAZIL	62	3
214	Cafu	BRAZIL	62	1
215	Roberto Carlos	BRAZIL	45	2
216	Goncalves	BRAZIL	22	1
217	Za Roberto	BRAZIL	15	1
218	Junior Baiano	BRAZIL	14	2
318	Andre Cruz	BRAZIL	29	1
219	Trifun Ivanov	BULGARIA	72	8
220	Radostin Kishishev	BULGARIA	22	0
221	Gosho Ginchev	BULGARIA	14	0
222	Ivailo Petkov	BULGARIA	9	0
224	Rigobert Song	CAMEROON	26	0
225	Javier Margas	CHILE	43	3
226	Ronald Fuentes	CHILE	27	1
227	Cristian Castaneda	CHILE	17	1
228	Pedro Reyes	CHILE	12	2
229	Wilmer Cabrera	COLOMBIA	42	2
230	Jorge Bermudez	COLOMBIA	40	3
231	Ivan Cordoba	COLOMBIA	12	0
232	Robert Jarni	CROATIA	35	0
233	Slaven Bilic	CROATIA	35	3
234	Igor Stimac	CROATIA	26	2
235	Dario Simic	CROATIA	14	0
236	Goran Juric	CROATIA	8	0
237	Marc Rieper	DENMARK	51	1
238	Jes Hogh	DENMARK	35	1
239	Thomas Helveg	DENMARK	26	1
240	Jacob Laursen	DENMARK	21	0
241	Tony Adams	ENGLAND	50	4
242	Gary Neville	ENGLAND	25	0
243	Graeme Le Saux	ENGLAND	23	1
244	Gareth Southgate	ENGLAND	23	0
245	Martin Keown	ENGLAND	16	1
248	Sol Campbell	ENGLAND	14	0

247	Phil Neville	ENGLAND	10	0
248	Andy Hinchcliffe	ENGLAND	5	0
249	Rio Ferdinand	ENGLAND	2	0
250	Laurent Blanc	FRANCE	66	11
251	Marcel Desailly	FRANCE	40	1
252	Lilian Thuram	FRANCE	31	0
253	Bixente Lizarazu	FRANCE	30	1
254	Frank Leboeuf	FRANCE	12	2
255	Lothar Matthaus	GERMANY	122	22
256	Jürgen Kohler	GERMANY	98	1
257	Stefan Reuter	GERMANY	66	2
258	Thomas Helmer	GERMANY	65	3
259	Olaf Thon	GERMANY	48	3
260	Markus Babbel	GERMANY	26	1
261	Frank de Boer	HOLLAND	52	5
262	Arthur Numan	HOLLAND	26	0
263	Michael Reiziger	HOLLAND	24	0
264	Winston Bogarde	HOLLAND	12	0
265	Jaap Stam	HOLLAND	11	1
266	Mohammad Khakpour	IRAN	36	0
267	Paolo Maldini	ITALY	87	5
268	Alessandro Costacurta	ITALY	53	2
269	Ciro Ferrara	ITALY	44	0
270	Fabio Cannavaro	ITALY	13	0
271	Alessandro Nesta	ITALY	11	0
317	Giuseppe Bergomi	ITALY	77	6
272	Durrant Brown	JAMAICA	123	2
273	Frank Sinclair	JAMAICA	5	0
274	Masami Ihara	JAPAN	114	5
275	Claudio Suarez	MEXICO	107	2
276	Duilio Davino	MEXICO	37	0
277	Pavel Pardo	MEXICO	36	0
278	Noureddine Naybet	MOROCCO	91	2
279	Uche Okechukwu	NIGERIA	41	0
280	Taribo West	NIGERIA	6	0
281	Celestine Babayaro	NIGERIA	6	0
282	Stig Inge Bjornetbye	NORWAY	60	1
283	Gunnar Halle	NORWAY	59	0
284	Henning Berg	NORWAY	50	4
285	Ronny Johnsen	NORWAY	31	1
286	AH-Inge Haaland	NORWAY	27	0
287	Catalino Riverola	PARAGUAY	45	4
288	Carlos Gamarra	PARAGUAY	44	3
289	Francisco Arce	PARAGUAY	26	4
290	Gheorghe Popescu	ROMANIA	76	13
291	Dan Petrescu	ROMANIA	66	10
292	Daniel Prodan	ROMANIA	45	1
293	Tibor Selmesy	ROMANIA	44	0
294	Anton Dobos	ROMANIA	20	1
295	Lucas Radebe	SOUTH AFRICA	41	1
296	Mark Fish	SOUTH AFRICA	37	2
297	Ahmed Jamil Madani	SAUDI ARABIA	94	5
298	Tom Boyd	SCOTLAND	53	2
299	Colin Hendry	SCOTLAND	30	1
300	Colin Calderwood	SCOTLAND	26	1
301	Tosh McKinlay	SCOTLAND	19	0
302	Christian Dailly	SCOTLAND	8	1
303	Matt Elliott	SCOTLAND	3	0
304	Lee Min-Sung	SOUTH KOREA	27	1
305	Rafael Alkorta	SPAIN	48	0
306	Miguel Angel Nadal	SPAIN	43	2
307	Abelardo Fernandez	SPAIN	39	2
308	Albert Ferrer	SPAIN	33	0
309	Sergi Barjuan	SPAIN	32	1
310	Sami Trabelsi	TUNISIA	42	3
311	Marcelo Balboa	USA	126	12
312	Alexi Lalas	USA	97	9
313	Sinisa Mihajlovic	YUGOSLAVIA	28	4
314	Zoran Mirkovic	YUGOSLAVIA	27	0
315	Goran Djorovic	YUGOSLAVIA	26	0
316	Miroslav Djukic	YUGOSLAVIA	23	1

**MIDFIELDERS**

Code	Player	Country	Caps	Goals
401	Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	66	10
402	Ariel Ortega	ARGENTINA	48	7
403	Matias Almeyda	ARGENTINA	15	0
404	Juan Sebastian Veron	ARGENTINA	15	1
405	Andreas Herzog	AUSTRIA	66	13
406	Peter Stoger	AUSTRIA	57	13
407	Heimo Pfeifenberger	AUSTRIA	34	9
408	Wlca Vastic	AUSTRIA	11	1
409	Franky van der Elst	BELGIUM	60	0
410	Enzo Scifo	BELGIUM	79	17
411	Lorenzo Staelens	BELGIUM	46	6
412	Marc Wilmots	BELGIUM	31	9
413	Nico van Kerckhoven	BELGIUM	14	0
414	Gert Verheyen	BELGIUM	14	2
415	Gert Claessens	BELGIUM	3	1
416	Philippe Clement	BELGIUM	2	0
417	Leonardo	BRAZIL	39	6
420	Derilson	BRAZIL	14	5
421	Rivaldo	BRAZIL	9	5
422	Doriva	BRAZIL	6	0
423	Dunga	BRAZIL	83	1
423	Zlatko Yanov	BULGARIA	66	4
424	Krasimir Balakov	BULGARIA	65	12
425	Daniel Borimirov	BULGARIA	36	4
426	Ivailo Yordanov	BULGARIA	36	1
427	Marc-Vivien Foe	CAMEROON	39	0
431	Luis Musuri	CHILE	22	0
432	Jose Luis Sierra	CHILE	22	2
433	Marcelo Vega	CHILE	21	1
434	Clarence Acuna	CHILE	15	0
435	Carlos Valderrama	COLOMBIA	104	10
436	Freddy Rincon	COLOMBIA	72	16
437	Mauricio Serna	COLOMBIA	36	2

438	Aljosa Asanovic	CROATIA	36	3
439	Zvonimir Boban	CROATIA	32	7
440	Robert Prosinecki	CROATIA	28	4
441	Mario Stanic	CROATIA	9	1
442	Krunoslav Jurcic	CROATIA	7	0
443	Silvio Maric	CROATIA	4	1
444	Michael Laudrup	DENMARK	97	36
445	Michael Schjoberg	DENMARK	26	3
446	Allan Nielsen	DENMARK	14	5
447	Per Frandsen	DENMARK	10	0
448	Jon Dahl Tomasson	DENMARK	4	0
449	Paul Gascogne	ENGLAND	54	10
450	Paul Ince	ENGLAND	38	2
451	David Betty	ENGLAND	30	0
452	Steve McManaman	ENGLAND	20	0
453	Paul Merson	ENGLAND	17	2
454	Darren Anderton	ENGLAND	16	5
455	Robert Lee	ENGLAND	18	2
456	David Beckham	ENGLAND	13	0
457	Jamie Redknapp	ENGLAND	8	0
458	Paul Scholes	ENGLAND	6	3
459	Nicky Butt	ENGLAND	5	0
460	Didier Deschamps	FRANCE	67	4
461	Youri Djorkaeff	FRANCE	35	15
462	Zinedine Zidane	FRANCE	31	8
463	Christian Karembeu	FRANCE	30	1
464	Emmanuel Petit	FRANCE	18	0
465	Sabri Lamouchi	FRANCE	11	0
466	Ibrahim Ba	FRANCE	8	2
467	Patrick Vieira	FRANCE	6	0
468	Thomas Hassler	GERMANY	91	11
469	Andreas Moller	GERMANY	77	26
470	Christian Ziege	GERMANY	35	3
471	Jorg Heinrich	GERMANY	13	0
472	Michael Tarnat	GERMANY	10	0
473	Stefan Freund	GERMANY	10	0
474	Aron Winter	HOLLAND	69	2
475	Wim Jonk	HOLLAND	41	10
476	Ronald de Boer	HOLLAND	38	9
477	Marc Overmars	HOLLAND	37	6
478	Clarence Seedorf	HOLLAND	26	6
479	Phillip Cocu	HOLLAND	1	



THE TIMES WORLD CUP FANTASY LEAGUE

prizes worth £50,000

FIRST PRIZE £25,000
SECOND PRIZE £10,000
THIRD PRIZE £5,000
PLUS FIVE PHASE PRIZES OF £2,000

The manager of the World Cup Fantasy League team with the most points at the end of the tournament will win £25,000. The runner-up will win £10,000 and there is a third prize of £5,000. In addition, players scoring the most points in each of five phases - after the first games in the opening round, after the second series of games, after the third series of games, from the second round to the quarter-finals, and during the semi-finals and final - will each win £2,000.

Graphic showing a football pitch layout with 11 player positions: GOALKEEPER, DEFENDER, MIDFIELD PLAYER, and STRIKER. Each position has a name and code number field.

£15M WORTH OF FOOTBALLER, FREE. Includes image of Ronaldo and text: 'Read the exclusive interview with Ronaldo in the third of four free World Cup guides. Only in The Times on Monday'.

HOW TO ENTER
Select a team of 11 players from the footballers listed opposite. You can only choose one player from any national team and have to select a 4-4-2 formation (a goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders and two strikers). You can enter either by post or by Touch-Tone (DTMF) phone. Use the graphic above to keep a record of your selection.
BY POST
Complete the entry form below and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 sterling (£10 sterling for readers outside the UK or Republic of Ireland) payable to Times Newspapers to: The Times World Cup Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Beds, LU1 1ZZ. Confirmation of your selection and your allocated PIN number will be sent by post upon receipt of your entry form. Postal entries must arrive by first post, June 10, 1998.
BY PHONE
Select your team and make a note of the three-digit player codes for your 11 players. Call the number below, and when prompted, tap in the player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) - make sure you write this down and keep it safe. You will need it to check your team's progress and make any transfers. The call will last approximately seven minutes. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Calls from payphones cost approximately double. Calls from outside the UK (+44 990) are charged at national rate.
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TALK RADIO WORLD CUP COMMENTATORS. Includes photo of Danny Baker and text: 'King of the football phone-in, Millwall fan Danny is the funniest and most outspoken pundit on the football airwaves. A welcome addition to the Talk Radio World Cup squad, Danny's will be the voice of football anarchy in a straight-timed world. Doesn't sit on the sidelines. talk radio 7:55-10:55am Make Talk Radio your official World Cup Station'.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
1. If you enter World Cup Fantasy League through The Times or The Sunday Times you are bound to play it within the terms and conditions of play as specified. 2. Only applications made on the official entry form or through the telephone entry line numbers provided will be accepted for World Cup Fantasy League. 3. All postal applications must be received by first post, June 10, 1998 at the latest. The closing date for telephone entries is noon on June 10, 1998. All entries made after this stage will be considered null and void. 4. There is no limit to the number of entries a person or household may make. 5. Neither Times Newspapers Limited nor Fantasy League Limited will accept responsibility for lost or lost entries. 6. Indistinguishable, inaudible, incorrect or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Where entry is by telephone, the computer record of the entry will be considered to be the entry. The decision of Times Newspapers Limited is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 7. All telephone entries and services offered are by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone only. Transfers are made by Touch-tone telephone only. 8. Entrants under 18 years of age should seek parental permission before participating. 9. In the event of a player under-18 winning a prize, any monies will be held in trust on their behalf until they are 18 years old. 10. Entry by telephone should take approximately 7 minutes. 11. The judges' decision relating to any disputes arising is final. 12. Informative and explanatory copy relating to World Cup Fantasy League form part of the terms and conditions of this game. 13. The top prize for this competition will be allocated to the player scoring the highest number of points, second and third prizes will be allocated to those scoring second and third highest respectively. The phase prizes will be awarded to the player scoring the most points in the relevant phase. 14. In the event of there being more than one winner of any prize, a tie-breaker will apply and the winner will be considered the player whose team has scored the most goals. If there is still a tie at this point the team with the most assists will be the winner. The ranking will then be affected accordingly. In the event that there is more than one winner after the tie-breaker, this prize will be shared. 15. To win a prize, the relevant team must have been in the correct format at all relevant times in order to win that prize. 16. The rules, point structure and assist awards scheme are all copyright Fantasy League Limited. No information may be reproduced in any format without prior written consent from Fantasy League Limited. 17. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute (£1 per minute from a public phone), 0891 fax calls cost £1 per minute. 18. The competition is not open to employees of Fantasy League Limited, Times Newspapers Limited or associated companies, their relatives, agents or agents' relatives. 19. Full details of players available transfer details, champions and fix score sheets will be published in The Times and The Sunday Times. 20. The scoring system and rules form part of the terms and conditions. 21. Times Newspapers Limited and Fantasy League Limited reserve the right to introduce new facilities or leagues to enhance Fantasy League World Cup. Such introductions will be printed in The Times and The Sunday Times at the appropriate time.

THE TIMES WORLD CUP FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM. Includes fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Age, and a table for selecting 11 players (Goalkeeper, Defenders, Midfielders, Forwards) with columns for Name, Code, and Country.



RACING

Torrent has form to make waves in competitive sprint

BY RICHARD EVANS RACING CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the connoisseurs wait for classic action from Chantilly tomorrow, sprinters take centre stage at Newmarket this afternoon...



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

poor draw at Chester. However, it is a comfortable victory from Night Shot over an inadequate five furlongs...

Raised just 4lb for that effort and sure to benefit from a return to six furlongs, Torrent has sound claims...

The opening Sunley Stakes Handicap (3.10) is tricky because some runners - notably Sylvia Paradise and Swynford Dream...

He disappointed last term when with Paul Cole, but a move north - and a gelding operation - has transformed this character...

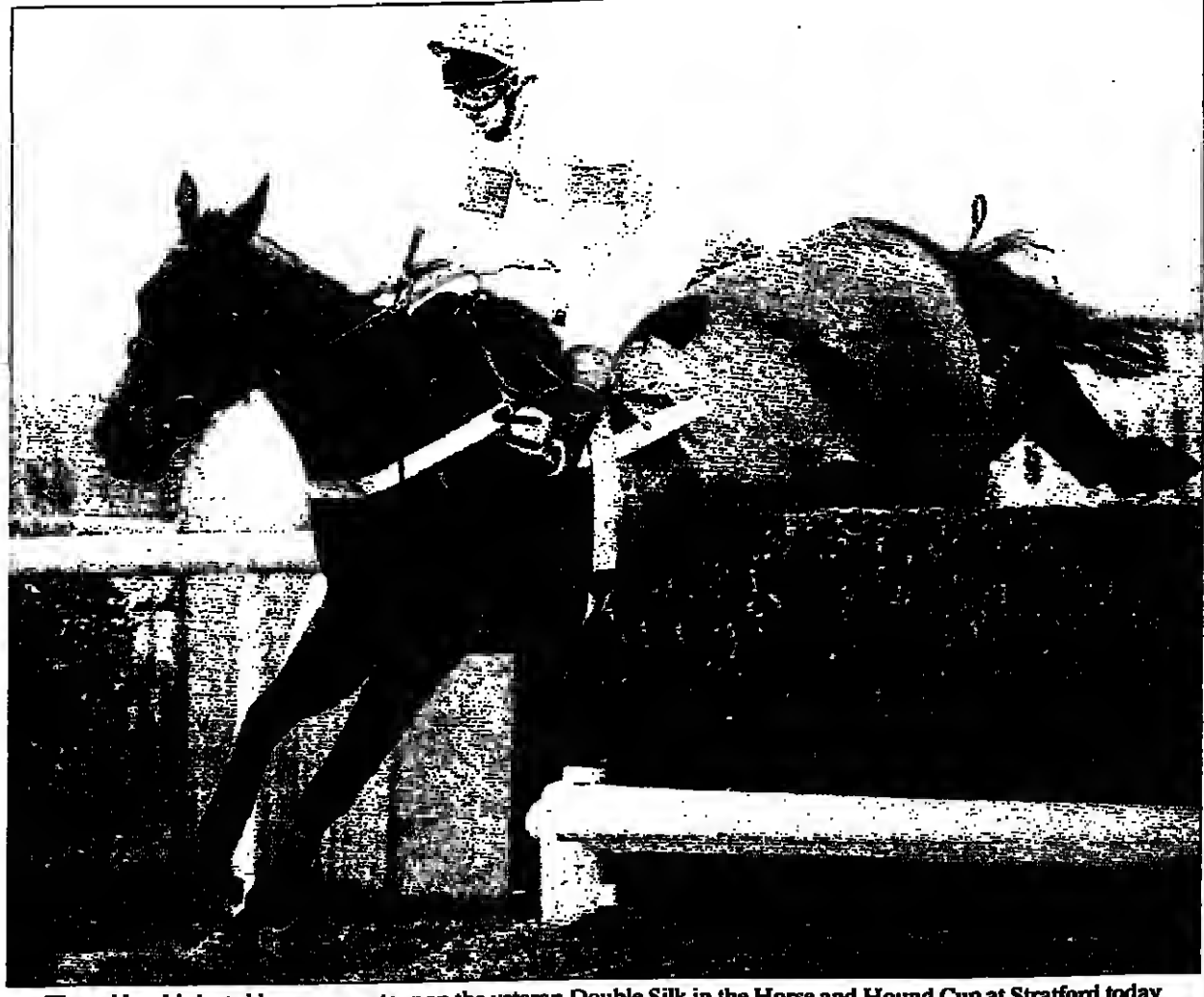
solid option is Ansellman from the in-form Jack Berry stable. Despite his advancing years, the course and distance winner looks as good as ever...

It will be a surprise if the Persimmon Homes Maiden Stakes (4.45) is not fought out between On The Ridge and Spindrift...

Tizzard quick to join professional ranks

By CARL EVANS

JOE TIZZARD, the promising amateur rider, will turn professional after the National Hunt season ends today...



Tizzard has his last ride as an amateur on the veteran Double Silk in the Horse and Hound Cup at Stratford today

RICHARD EVANS
Nag: First Frame (2.35 Caterick Bridge)
First Frame takes a significant drop in class after a career-best effort...

His decision to drop his amateur status came after he partnered the Nicholls-trained Mutual Agreement to victory at Fontwell earlier this week...

been on several winners for the yard this year and enters the race while Nicholls has a second rider to Timmy Murphy...

Cup (4.30) at Stratford and Double Silk is a wonderful horse to end on. Younger horses should beat him however...

excellent form overall. Teton Mill disappointed at Cheltenham on his latest start but can be forgiven that effort...

winning in this race. However, Oliver Carter's Tom's Gemini Star is in form and could run well.

NEWMARKET

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 2.40 Agreeable, 3.10 Sunley Builds Handicap, 4.45 Persimmon Homes Maiden Stakes.

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.45 MAGIC RAINBOW.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 AGREEABLE (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-4032 GOOD TIMES 74 (COB.F.G.S) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Half 9-10-0 ... West (4) 88

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 MILTON PARK STUD MAIDEN STAKES

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 2.10 Milton Park Stud Maiden Stakes, 3.10 Sunley Builds Handicap, 4.45 Persimmon Homes Maiden Stakes.

FORM FOCUS: Laurette 71 2nd of 10 to Capt in maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

LAURETTE seems to have a routine task in this poorly-contested event

PICK UP A FREE £10 BET FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS STARRING £25 OR MORE...

CORAL SPRINT HANDICAP

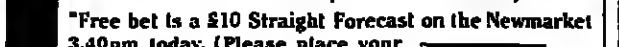
Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 7/4 Masha-II, 7/4 Ring Dancer, 8/1 Harmonic Wave, 8/1 Nuclear Debate, 9/1 Kayo, 12/1 Hill Magic, 13/1 Night Shot, 13/1 Sarah Stokes, 13/1 Easter Ogil.

LATEST ODDS ON WILLIAM HILL TV TEXT - In-text on 04 905 02020

RING TODAY - BET TODAY

0800 100 230

\*Free bet is a £10 Straight Forecast on the Newmarket 3.40pm today. (Please place your bet and make your free bet selection within the same call.)



WILLIAM HILL

TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT PLEASE PHONE 0800 285 892 WILLIAM HILL RULES APPLY. PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION.

2.40 EBF SNAILWELL STUD MAIDEN STAKES

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 2.40 EBF Snailwell Stud Maiden Stakes, 3.10 Sunley Builds Handicap, 4.45 Persimmon Homes Maiden Stakes.

FORM FOCUS: Agreeable 2nd of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about AGREEABLE

3.10 SUNLEY BUILDS HANDICAP

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 3.10 Sunley Builds Handicap, 4.45 Persimmon Homes Maiden Stakes, 5.20 Countryside Handicap.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

4.45 PERSIMMON HOMES MAIDEN STAKES

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 4.45 Persimmon Homes Maiden Stakes, 5.20 Countryside Handicap, 6.45 Spillers Horse Feeders Ladies Hunters Chase.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

5.20 COUNTRYSIDE HANDICAP

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 5.20 Countryside Handicap, 6.45 Spillers Horse Feeders Ladies Hunters Chase, 7.45 Bankes Ashton Investment Charlotte Fillyes Stakes.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

6.45 SPILLERS HORSE FEEDERS LADIES HUNTERS CHASE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 6.45 Spillers Horse Feeders Ladies Hunters Chase, 7.45 Bankes Ashton Investment Charlotte Fillyes Stakes, 8.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

7.45 BANKES ASHTON INVESTMENT CHARLOTTE FILLYES STAKES

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 7.45 Bankes Ashton Investment Charlotte Fillyes Stakes, 8.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 9.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

8.45 INTRINSIC JUSTITIA HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 8.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 9.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 10.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

9.45 INTRINSIC JUSTITIA HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 9.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 10.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 11.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

3.40 CORAL SPRINT HANDICAP

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 3.40 Coral Sprint Handicap, 4.45 Persimmon Homes Maiden Stakes, 5.20 Countryside Handicap.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

4.45 PERSIMMON HOMES MAIDEN STAKES

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 4.45 Persimmon Homes Maiden Stakes, 5.20 Countryside Handicap, 6.45 Spillers Horse Feeders Ladies Hunters Chase.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

5.20 COUNTRYSIDE HANDICAP

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 5.20 Countryside Handicap, 6.45 Spillers Horse Feeders Ladies Hunters Chase, 7.45 Bankes Ashton Investment Charlotte Fillyes Stakes.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

6.45 SPILLERS HORSE FEEDERS LADIES HUNTERS CHASE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 6.45 Spillers Horse Feeders Ladies Hunters Chase, 7.45 Bankes Ashton Investment Charlotte Fillyes Stakes, 8.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

7.45 BANKES ASHTON INVESTMENT CHARLOTTE FILLYES STAKES

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 7.45 Bankes Ashton Investment Charlotte Fillyes Stakes, 8.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 9.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

8.45 INTRINSIC JUSTITIA HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 8.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 9.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 10.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

9.45 INTRINSIC JUSTITIA HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 9.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 10.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 11.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

10.45 INTRINSIC JUSTITIA HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 10.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 11.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 12.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

4.45 PERSIMMON HOMES MAIDEN STAKES

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 4.45 Persimmon Homes Maiden Stakes, 5.20 Countryside Handicap, 6.45 Spillers Horse Feeders Ladies Hunters Chase.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

5.20 COUNTRYSIDE HANDICAP

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 5.20 Countryside Handicap, 6.45 Spillers Horse Feeders Ladies Hunters Chase, 7.45 Bankes Ashton Investment Charlotte Fillyes Stakes.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

6.45 SPILLERS HORSE FEEDERS LADIES HUNTERS CHASE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 6.45 Spillers Horse Feeders Ladies Hunters Chase, 7.45 Bankes Ashton Investment Charlotte Fillyes Stakes, 8.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

7.45 BANKES ASHTON INVESTMENT CHARLOTTE FILLYES STAKES

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 7.45 Bankes Ashton Investment Charlotte Fillyes Stakes, 8.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 9.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

8.45 INTRINSIC JUSTITIA HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 8.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 9.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 10.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

9.45 INTRINSIC JUSTITIA HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 9.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 10.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 11.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

10.45 INTRINSIC JUSTITIA HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 10.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 11.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 12.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

11.45 INTRINSIC JUSTITIA HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 11.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 12.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle, 13.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle.

FORM FOCUS: Magic Rain 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

Out Newmarket Correspondent is very confident about MAGIC RAIN

YESTERDAY'S R

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 2.20 Hill Magic, 3.10 Sunley Builds Handicap, 4.45 Persimmon Homes Maiden Stakes.

AYR

2.20 Hill Magic 1st of 10 to Capt in maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

3.10 Sunley Builds Handicap 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

4.45 Persimmon Homes Maiden Stakes 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

5.20 Countryside Handicap 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

6.45 Spillers Horse Feeders Ladies Hunters Chase 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

7.45 Bankes Ashton Investment Charlotte Fillyes Stakes 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

8.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

9.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

10.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

11.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

12.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

13.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

14.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

15.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

16.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

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23.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

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25.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

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28.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

29.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

30.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

31.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

32.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

33.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

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36.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

37.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

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39.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

40.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

41.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

42.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

43.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

44.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

45.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10 to Hill Magic in 2yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to soft)...

46.45 Intrinsic Justitia Handicap Hurdle 1st of 10



FRIDAY MAY 30 1998

RACING: PRIX LUPIN WINNER CAN HOLD RAIDERS AT BAY

Croco Rouge to triumph in Chantilly showpiece

By CHRIS McGRATH

PERHAPS someone will sit Christy Roche down in front of a television tomorrow, stick a drink in his hand, and urge him to follow a tutorial in how to ride a fancied colt in a classic for Aidan O'Brien.

It is not as though he should need telling, at his time of life. But there can be no doubt that Michael Kinane will ride Saratoga Springs in rather more positive fashion in the Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby) at Chantilly tomorrow than did Roche his stablemate, Second Empire, in the Irish 2,000 Guineas last weekend.

Roché believes that his tender handling of the favourite represented a duty to his mounts' well-being. Pointers, however, will undoubtedly feel more comfortable with Kinane's trademark vigour tomorrow — though whether it yields them more profit is another matter.

Saratoga Springs is one of those racehorses, described as lazy, who actually labours harder than rivals to whom racing comes easily. This devotion to the work ethic, in fact, could even see Saratoga Springs turned out for the Vodafone Derby itself next Saturday should his performance tomorrow merit it.

Kinane, who rides the Ballydoyle horses overseas, got his mount to dig deep in the Danie Stakes at York on his reappearance — outpaced as the tempo quickened, but enjoying a clear run on the outside to beat City Honours half a length.

One theory is that the extra distance tomorrow will allow him to hold a position, but there is a chance that Saratoga Springs (who is not guaran-



Kinane rides Saratoga Springs again in the French Derby

BIG-RACE FIELD BBC2

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

3.20 THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES PRIX DU JOCKEY-CLUB (Group 1, 3-Y-O, £252,525 1m 40) (13 runners)

1 (10) 222-211 PROUD 24 (F) (M) (Kinane) R (10) 9-2 ... D Holland 6 Mace 2

Pritchard favoured in thrilling title race

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

SOME gaunt figures will be entering the changing tent at today's Exmoor meeting. With one week of the season remaining, all three contenders for the men's championship will be riding at the Devon fixture, each knowing the result of the title, involving months of hard work and dieting, could rest on this afternoon's events.

Julian Pritchard, the reigning champion, will smile a lot and be jantey. Tim Mitchell will look tense and Andrew Dalton inscrutable.

Pritchard is the man in form. He said a week ago: "I'm going to win this title," and promptly rode two winners. Danie's Pride, Full Score and Getaway Blake all have chances today for him, the last-named in the four-mile race in which Mitchell expects to gain the upper hand at Apatuna King.

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER 6.20 First Consul, 6.50 Vola Via, 7.20 One Singer, 7.50 Midnight Escape, 8.20 Shalama, 8.50 Talulah Belle.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS DRAW: SF, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.20 FUSION NIGHTS AT THE JUBILEE CLUB MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O, £3,729 70) (17 runners)

1 4 FAST CONSUL 202 M (R) 9-2 ... J Pegg 2 10

6.50 FLORENCE NAGLE HANDICAP (Apprentices £3,139 1m 10) (12)

1 402 YOLA 25 15 (C) 5-11 ... J Pegg 2 10

7.20 AMBITION HANDICAP (3-Y-O, £2,695 70) (17)

1 1104 DANABOND 17 (M) 9-2 ... S Sanders 10

6.40 JAMBOS SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O, £2,220 50) (9 runners)

1 50 BLAZING FLAME 10 (G) 8-11 ... A Callaghan 1

7.40 SHERATON GRAND CUP HANDICAP (A £224 50) (9)

1 130 GARROCK VALLEY 2 (M) (F) 9-10 ... Dean Mackintosh 7

7.30 LINCOLNSHIRE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,277 2m 11 1/2) (8)

1 1001 HUPU KING EMPEROR 13 (F) 9-11 ... R Pegg 2 10

7.50 RING & BRYMER ACHILLES SKY

1 35-0 ZEPHYRUS 20 (F) 9-2 ... J Pegg 2 10

8.20 LORNE STEWART MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (3-Y-O, £3,680 1m 10) (14)

1 640 ACEDY LYONS 217 (F) 9-2 ... D Sweeney 14

8.50 BLACKBIRD HANDICAP (£3,501 1m 40) (8)

1 0003 SERREY BALLOU 10 (M) 9-2 ... W J Corner 5

8.10 SHERATON GRAND CUP ROOM HANDICAP (€2,900 2m 12)

1 0135 NORTHERN MOULDER 10 (C) (F) 9-10 ... J Pegg 2 10

8.40 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND HATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (€2,206 50) (8)

1 0000 LORO CORNELIUS 28 (M) 9-2 ... W Saggie 5

9.10 HEARTS ARE CHAMPIONS HANDICAP (€2,063 1m 14) (11)

1 0000 YOUNG BIRCH 10 (M) 9-2 ... L Newman 5

8.00 LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO HANDICAP HURDLE (€3,068 2m 3 1/2) (9)

1 1306 HULLBARK BR R (F) 9-2 ... J A McCallum 1

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ayr 2.20 (1m 20) 1. PAY-BOY (F) (Kinane) R (10) 9-2 ... D Holland 6 Mace 2

3.30 (1m 30) 1. ETERNITY (D) (Hannon) 5-11 ... D Holland 6 Mace 2

4.30 (1m 40) 1. PALMCASTLE JACK (C) (Lowe) 11-4 ... D Holland 6 Mace 2

5.30 (1m 50) 1. SLIPSTREAM (D) (Hannon) 5-11 ... D Holland 6 Mace 2

6.30 (1m 50) 1. PALMCASTLE JACK (C) (Lowe) 11-4 ... D Holland 6 Mace 2

CATTERICK

THUNDERER 2.00 Castaway Princess, 2.35 Super Snip, 3.05 Lunch Party, 3.35 Finistore, 4.10 Tankersley, 4.40 Uncle Doug.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS DRAW: SF-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 SKIPTON-ON-SWALE SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O, £1,898 50) (9 runners)

1 00 JUST ORANGE 24 (F) 9-2 ... J Pegg 2 10

2.35 ALDROUGH RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (€2,318 2m 12) (10)

1 005 BARRON LANDS 18 (G) 8-11 ... R Dickson 9

3.05 ROTHAMPS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES (Handicap, £4,370 70) (11)

1 000 HIGH GARRY 14 (M) 9-2 ... Kim Toller 2

4.10 SINDERY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O, £2,889 70) (5)

1 0001 ANTHONY MORN AROUND 30 (M) 9-2 ... J Pegg 2 10

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER 2.15 Smittenby, 2.45 Sea Waves, 3.15 Kim's Brave, 3.50 Success Action, 4.25 Tamarisk, 4.55 Riffle, 5.25 Carillon.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS DRAW: SF-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 RACING CHANNEL NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O, £3,236 50) (7 runners)

1 01 DOCTOR SPIN 12 (D) (R) (Kinane) 9-2 ... J Pegg 2 10

2.45 SCREEN STARS EXTRA PREMIUM MAIDEN STAKES (€3,623 1m 20) (8)

1 005 RIVERSIDE 25 (F) 9-2 ... A Day 10 2

3.15 TITTO HANDICAP (3-Y-O, £7,700 1m 20) (11)

1 21-3 MANITUS 45 (F) (S) 9-2 ... C Rafter 10

4.25 NICHOLSON GRAHAM & JONES LEISURE STAKES (Listed race, £11,806 60) (7)

1 23-1 TOMAS 42 (F) (S) 9-2 ... M Tabbart 2

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER 6.40 Abhismita, 7.10 Little Miss Rocker, 7.40 Soaked, 8.10 Northern Mote, 8.40 Mukamba, 9.10 Wagga Moon.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: SF, LOW NUMBERS BEST

6.40 JAMBOS SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O, £2,220 50) (9 runners)

1 50 BLAZING FLAME 10 (G) 8-11 ... A Callaghan 1

7.10 SHERATON GRAND TERRACE RESTAURANT CLAIMING STAKES (€2,132 1m 40) (7)

1 30-4 GOLDEN THUNDERBOLT 15 (M) 9-2 ... Dean Mackintosh 7

7.40 SHERATON GRAND CUP HANDICAP (A £224 50) (9)

1 130 GARROCK VALLEY 2 (M) (F) 9-10 ... Dean Mackintosh 7

7.30 LINCOLNSHIRE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE HANDICAP CHASE (€3,277 2m 11 1/2) (8)

1 1001 HUPU KING EMPEROR 13 (F) 9-11 ... R Pegg 2 10

Cole pair head raid on Italy

A STRONG British team for tomorrow's Derby Italiano in Rome is headed by the Paul Cole-trained pair Mowbray (ridden by Richard Quinn) and Carry The Flag (Mirco Demuro). Central Park (Daragh O'Donoghue), trained by Cole last season, is one of two runners from the Godolphin team — the other being Mive Brianaw (Richard Hills).

Clive Burrows relies on Clive Harrison, while Peter Champion-Hyatt runs Distant Mirage (John Reid), Dashing Chief (Philip Robinson), from Michael Jarvis's yard, completes the raising party.

MONDAY: Hamilton Park (first race 12.15), Litchfield (2.00), Herford (6.20), Windsor (8.30), Hereford (10.40)

RACING NEXT WEEK

TUESDAY: Brighton (2.00), Pontefract (12.45), Wednesday: Goodwood (2.10), Newcastle (2.20), Warwick (2.00), Beverley (6.40), Chester (6.30), Ffos-y-felin (6.20)

THURSDAY: Haydock Park (2.00), Yarmouth (2.10), Perth (2.30), Friday: Epsom (2.10), Southwell (AW, 2.20), Goodwood (6.30), Haydock Park (6.40), Perth (6.50)

RACELINE COMMENTARY RESULTS NEWMARKET 101 201 LINGFIELD 102 202 CATTERICK 103 203 STRATFORD 104 204 KEMPTON 105 205 MUSSELBURGH 106 206 MORTON 107 207 IRISH 108 208 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 109

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: J J Dalton, 4 winners from 10 runners, 37.5%, J Glover, 4 from 12, 33.3%, D Butler, 4 from 21, 19.0%, M J Rowley, 15 from 22, 68.2%, W Miles, 5 from 20, 25.0%, R Pegg, 23 from 102, 22.6%

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J J Dalton, 4 winners from 10 runners, 37.5%, J Glover, 4 from 12, 33.3%, D Butler, 4 from 21, 19.0%, M J Rowley, 15 from 22, 68.2%, W Miles, 5 from 20, 25.0%, R Pegg, 23 from 102, 22.6%

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Stewart, 7 winners from 24 runners, 29.2%, H Cecil, 11 from 38, 28.9%, L Cumani, 7 from 20, 35.0%, M Prescott, 21 from 95, 22.1%, Lood Hastings, 44 from 221, 19.9%

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Channon, 4 winners from 9 runners, 44.4%, C Brooks, 4 from 14, 28.6%, P Bony, 3 from 11, 27.3%, M Pox, 15 from 56, 26.8%

TRAINERS: J J Dalton, 4 winners from 10 runners, 37.5%, J Glover, 4 from 12, 33.3%, D Butler, 4 from 21, 19.0%, M J Rowley, 15 from 22, 68.2%, W Miles, 5 from 20, 25.0%, R Pegg, 23 from 102, 22.6%



Horse sense and hospitality provide password to fast friendships at National Hunt stable

# Knight errand provides feed for thought

Oh God, they thought when I arrived. They were too nice to say it, but you could see it in their eyes. I was the last straw. A pair of owners had shown up an hour early to look at a horse they might buy a leg of. Another owner had made a late decision to run a horse at Uttoxeter, and why the hell weren't there more hours in the bloody day?

## SIMON BARNES Talking horse



latest bill, or the latest humiliation. Bloody horses, and I say it for the same reason. And the password holds good for — well, I think it has held good for every yard I have ever visited. So far, anyway. Regardless of what horsey discipline the yard pursues. But then the Knight yard is famous for its wide and eclectic approach to horsemanship or to use a better word, horsemastership. This is still an inadequate word, but we really can't allow horsemistresship. Like the word "lad", in the horsey — in the racing — world, many masculine nouns have now been expanded to include the feminine gender. To the benefit of the horses.



Knight at her stables in West Lockinge Farm. The yard is famous for its eclectic approach to horsemanship. Photographs: Clive Postlethwaite

Pressing business, since good owners are as important as good horses. If you can't do right by both, you can't train. Priorities are priorities, and some bloody journo turning up on the doorstep was not going to make their day. *Au contraire.*

Apparently every ansaphone and contact number I possess was humming with messages telling me to stay at home, but I, travelling serenely in the no-mobile-phone-no-Walkman carriage, was blissfully unaware. It was not a good way to arrive.

If Henrietta Knight, National Hunt trainer, could have pressed a button that would have made me disappear without disconcert, she'd have damn near broken her finger on it.

And yet in about 3½ minutes, Hen and I were in the feed room, she dishing out a kind of scrupulously-measured and individually-catered Chinese banquet for each of the 28 horses living in — there are generally around 60 when the season is in full swing — and chatting away like old friends. And for me, a very nasty day was suddenly a very nice one indeed.

Partly this was because of the basic hospitality — of Knight, of West Lockinge Farm, of that side of National Hunt racing that is still the same of love.

the horse. It wasn't really anything that I said. I just love being in a yard, whether it's prime function is dressage or endurance or racing or the pony club mounted games.

"The password is probably 'love', but like most forms of that problematic and vexatious noun, it is the love that dare not speak its name. I can never think of interview questions: what is the most important thing in your life?, and so on. So we talked about feed. I was given a pocket full of oats to taste. I am nibbling them now, as I write. I'll be jumping out of my skin tomorrow.

And partly it is something to do with the place. West Lockinge Farm has been there for centuries and so have Knight's family, and the place is heaving with horses and memories and bantams. Bantams, Knight told me, are a bloody nuisance. Country people, like the bi-coloured python rock snake, always talk like this. It means, basically, I couldn't live without them.

Bloody horses, I say, and I say it often. Generally at the

One of the odd things about the horsey world is its fragmentation. It is full of hermetic compartments. Flat racing is soulless, jump racing is cruel, endurance riders are chickens and dressage riders are all queens of either sex. Crossing the boundaries — well it's just not done.

Or not often, though increasingly, Knight has done — well, everything, really. From the same farm, she has ridden pony club shows and Badminton, finishing twelfth one year, which takes a very great deal of doing.

### 'From the same farm, she has ridden pony club shows and Badminton, once finishing twelfth'

She spent eight years on the senior horse trials selection committee, four as chairman in the run-up to the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. She then trained point-to-pointers, specialised in "bringing on" — lovely bit of horsey jargon, that — young horses, and also in reschooling various rogues, known as "remedial horses". She took out a full licence as a National Hunt trainer 11 years

ago, 41 winners so far this dying season, a frustrating one by her standards.

Most athletic disciplines these days stress the value of cross-training. Cricketers play football, runners go cycling, and I even know a darts player who swears by his regimen of long distance swimming.

Knight has always been in the vanguard of cross-training for horses. Every horse who's

schooling. The horses learn balance and develop greater athleticism.

They develop the muscles in the back and hind quarters, which makes them jump better and cleaner, and helps them get away from a fence faster. The horse that leads, jumps the fastest, tends to win jump races.

She is married to Terry Biddlecombe, the former jump

People who have known life's ghastliness tend — if they are saved — to be good at life's good things. What is the opposite of lost souls? Found souls, perhaps.

And West Lockinge Farm is a fine place in which to be found. Behind the hassle of the day lies the peace of ages; behind the trivialities and nonsense of the latest deadline — whether it's theirs or mine — hides the purpose of centuries.

People and animals. People and horses. People and the green bits of earth, acres in which individual horses can be trained individually, each according to its need.

Black ducks on the pond, a present from Willie Carson. White ducks enthusiastically interbreeding with them. Conker trees groaning under the weight of their candlesticks. And horses, and horse people. Balm to the soul. But must get that bloody horse to Uttoxeter. "Sorry we've got to go. So sorry you couldn't stay for longer." It made my day, that last bit, it really did.



Working partnership: Knight and her husband, Terry Biddlecombe, the former national hunt jockey

## RUGBY LEAGUE: LONDON WANT FULL BACK AS McRAE TAKES GAMBLE

### Umaga the man to fill void for Broncos

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

LONDON Broncos are close to completing a deal with Mike Umaga, the dual code Western Samoa and former Halifax Blue Sox full back, who spent the last rugby union season playing for Rotherham.

The need for reinforcement was highlighted by the absence of five leading Broncos players from the JJB Super League game away to Bradford Bulls last night, although injuries to Mark Carroll and Martin Offiah, who could return for the home game against Sheffield Eagles next Saturday, are not as bad as first feared.

Halifax are the surprise package of the Super League, just as Sheffield were in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. They have upset Bradford and St Helens in successive weeks and retain the same squad to face Sheffield today at Don Valley Stadium, where the Eagles felt that an inaccurate refereeing decision cost them victory over Leeds last week.

Sheffield, anxious to atone for throwing away a 19-point lead against the Super League leaders, face the season without Matt Crowther, who has damaged medial knee ligaments. Michael Jackson replaces Paul Carr in the pack and should Rod Doyle fail a fitness test, Martin Wood will take over at loose forward.

After his £1,000 fine and touchline ban for verbally abusing referees, Andy Gregory, the Salford Reds coach, must sit in the stands at The Willows and trust that his blood pressure is up to the visit tomorrow of Castleford Tigers, who have also lost their past two matches.

In response to four successive defeats, Warrington Wolves have won their past three games and travel to bottom-placed Huddersfield Giants, but with doubts about Mark Forster and Brendon Trueta, who both suffered leg injuries in the last-minute defeat of Hull on Monday.

### St Helens seek inspiration

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

After the defeat away to Halifax last week, McRae dropped Goulding for the first time since the Great Britain scrum half joined from Widnes in 1994. The young and ambitious Sean Long will partner Tommy Martyn, who will start his first game at stand-off since he suffered an ankle injury in the defeat by Wigan seven weeks ago.

Significantly, Leeds, who have won only three times in the past 14 years at Knowsley

Road, are without the suspended Adrian Morley, their outstanding forward, but have Marc Glanville back after concussion. St Helens have also omitted the transfer-listed Karlie Hammond. Apollo Perellini makes his first start in the pack, while Andy Haigh replaces the injured Damien Smith at centre.

Having scraped home at Sheffield and against London, Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, thinks that St Helens, in adversity, could pose even more of a threat without Goulding. "In Long, they've a talented player who has the ability to change a game. His pace off the mark is another thing we'll have to guard against," he said.

"I believe we can maintain our 100 per cent record. To come back from 13-4 down against Sheffield tells me that we've a lot of good qualities. I know there will be some rewards for us by the end of the year."

Wigan will pose an immense test of Hull's powers of recovery since they succumbed to Warrington last Monday in the fifth minute of added time. Andy Jarrell has not trained because of a dead leg, but is expected to be fit to lead Wigan.



Goulding: dropped

### GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Table with columns for Today, Tomorrow, and other sports fixtures including Cricket, Football, and Rugby League.

Large advertisement for Saturday rest with text: SATURDAY. ANYTHING BUT A DAY OF REST. Includes logos for SPORT Vision WEEKEND metro, the times magazine, and meg@.

THE TIMES SATURDAY... Summertime, and En ro than

Advertisement for a motorcycle with text: Beyond the flat-top... Wicked motor? Indones... John Naish o... serious money... behind the jok... sidecar image...

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THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 30 1998

Hunt stable



seek inspirati



TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES



# For your company golf day



# it's the business

## 4 steps to La Manga.....



### 1 Register your Company Golf Day



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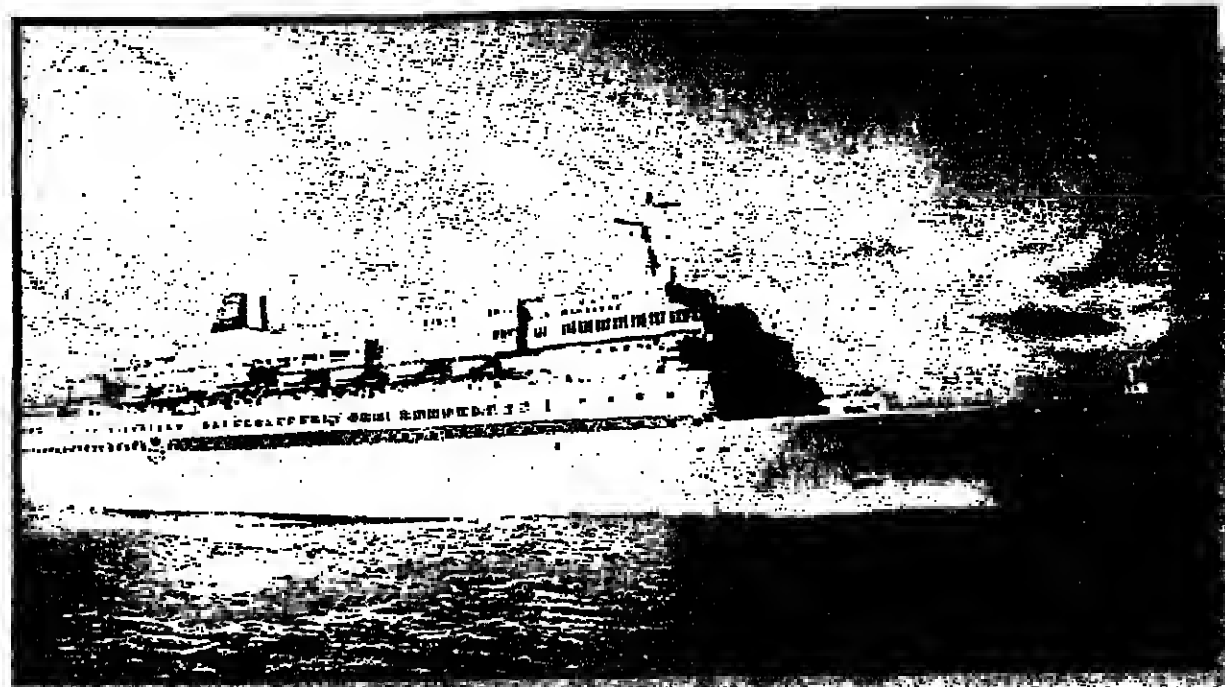
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Four wheel drive advertisement listing various car models and prices.

Alfa Romeo advertisement listing various car models and prices.

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Jeep advertisement for authorised dealers, listing various models and prices.

Hero advertisement featuring a portrait of a woman and text about a British air chief.

No one's safe from the ticket enforcer advertisement featuring a portrait of Joe Warwick and text about new traffic wardens.



# Hero's glory gets yanked away

## Eve-Ann Prentice on the forgotten British air chief who devised the flights that saved besieged Berlin



Widow Jessamy Waite is upset at US claiming credit

A British RAF officer who helped to prevent the Cold War escalating into world conflict by starting an unprecedented airborne supply mission is being hailed as an unsung hero 50 years on, despite American efforts to claim the credit.



Air Commodore Rex Waite

On June 24, the Western half of the city was faced with the spectre of mass starvation after Stalin sealed off access to vital supplies from the West. American military chiefs considered breaking Stalin's blockade by force, but the idea was vetoed in Washington. It was then that Rex Waite, the most senior RAF officer in

Berlin, came up with the idea of flying in food and other supplies to the besieged Berliners. The American commander, General Lucius Clay, agreed to the airlift.

Now British veterans say President Clinton is stealing the glory in commemorations to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of the 11-month operation, while Air Commo-



Berlin calling for help: a Douglas DC3 Dakota being loaded with freight. British forces dropped half of all the food

dore Waite is not being given the credit he deserves. The air commodore died a month before his 74th birthday in May 1975, but his role in helping save two million Berliners from starvation and cold in the bitter winter of 1948 is to be recognised in a Channel 4 documentary. His widow, Jessamy, lived in Berlin with her husband and two daughters throughout the blockade and now says she feels disappointed that America seems to be taking a lion's share of the credit.

"I did hear one US general say on radio that he had no knowledge that the RAF had started the airlift," she says. "It is unfortunate that people who risked their lives as aircrew have not been recognised."

In May, President Clinton visited Berlin and was cheered by 7,000 Berliners in a ceremony at Tempelhof airport to commemorate the airlift. Colonel Gail Halvorsen, pilot of the so-called Candy Bomber which dropped sweets to the city's children, was feted as the hero of the day. Now British veterans are criticising the British Government for not focusing enough attention on the RAF's role.

Of the 80 people killed in air accidents during flights along the narrow air corridor in and out of Berlin, 39 were serving with the British, including 21 civilian airmen; 31 were Americans and nine were German civilians.

**'It is sad that those who risked their lives haven't got their due'**

In 1948, pilots flew round the clock dropping supplies of powdered potato, coal and other necessities. British aircraft delivered nearly 45 per cent of the 538,000 tons of food dropped into the city, and all the liquid fuel. The British veterans say they acknowledge the huge role played by the Americans, but that they want to see credit paid to the Australian, New Zealand and South African

forces which played a part, as well as to British. A young Freddie Laker was among the British civilian pilots flying against the blockade.

Geoff Smith, a spokesman for the Berlin Airlift Association, was an aircraft technician in Berlin during the mission. "Britain is sending George Robertson to commemorations in June, but you would expect the Defence Secretary to go," he says. "We think Tony Blair or John Prescott should be there. We have also been pushing for a commemorative stamp but we keep being fobbed off."

Secret History: The Berlin Airlift, June 29 at 9pm on Channel 4.

### THE PLANES THAT SAVED BERLIN



THE HANDLEY Page Halifax transport, converted for civilian use, was the most widely used non-military aircraft in the Berlin Airlift. Stephen Brennan writes. Forty one were used, more than all the other civilian aircraft put together. It was well suited to a transport role, with its four powerful engines enabling it to carry a large payload. It began life in the Thirties as a heavy bomber and played a vital role against Germany in the Second World War.



EIGHT RAF squadrons of Avro Yorks were used in the Berlin Airlift. It was designed for long-range transport, with its wings, engines and tail taken from the Lancaster bomber, so only the fuselage had to be designed and built. Nevertheless the York was built in large numbers after the war. Although the York's maximum payload was 10,000lb, it consistently flew with more than 12,000lb in the airlift. The first fatality for the RAF was sustained when a York crashed in Berlin on September 19, 1948.



THE SHORT Sunderland first saw service as the prewar Empire airliner, but was successful in the Second World War as a long-range flying boat. It ceased operations in the Berlin Airlift when the Havel See, where it landed and took off, froze in December 1948. It transported 5,000 tons of provisions, equivalent to just one day's total lift, which were unloaded by hand into barges and motor launches with great difficulty. Three of the civilian types, the Short Hythe, were also used.

## No one's safe from the ticket enforcer

### Joe Warwick on the next traffic warden you will love to hate

I think you'll find I'm a lot different to him," says Mike Greenidge of fellow parking enforcer Ray Brown, the villainously camp star of BBC's *Clampers*. When Greenidge makes the first of his appearances on the controversial fly-on-the-wall documentary next week, it seems unlikely that photographs of him in drag will appear in the tabloids, or that he'll end up presenting the National Lottery.

More importantly, he is closer to the genuine article because, unlike the colourful Brown, Greenidge has spent the past two years walking and ticketing the streets of Hammersmith and Fulham in West London.

He recently won media attention for his professional ways, too: a Sunday tabloid newspaper took exception to his ruthless efficiency in ticketing 108 cars in a single day. "The place for this rat is on the dole," the paper decided.

I met him at the start of his route. He is keen to emphasise, as is the press officer at the Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, that he's not a clampster. They do not clamp in the borough, although they do sometimes tow cars away.

Greenidge claims he was initially drawn to the job by a passion for walking. He estimates that he covers between 20 and 25 miles a day.

A yellow line is not just a decoration on the road," he says with Zen-like simplicity. "It's my job to give out tickets. I'm not paid to walk along the streets thinking of things to come." Whatever he is paid (and he insists that there are no bonuses for higher ticketing), Hammersmith and Fulham is getting value for money; he has ticketed 20,000 motorists and amassed £250,000 in fines.

The most striking thing about the man is the pace at which he operates. We look off at speed down the Uxbridge Road, walking away from Shepherds Bush at what I thought was a brisk pace. He



Notoriously efficient Mike Greenidge, who even books his colleagues' cars

looked back at me with a plying grin, saying: "I'm walking slowly with you. I don't want to wear you out."

Greenidge's pace helped him achieve a record 108 tickets, as did the fact that it was the first day of a new parking zone. He is equally proud of his monthly record of 1,114. "I only work four days a week, so that's about 80 a day," he explains. On an average day, Greenidge reckons, he gives out about 50 tickets. "Most people do between 15 to 25 tickets. I can get 30 or 40 without even trying. Even if I felt sick I could get 30," he boasts.

Everyone is fair game: Greenidge has even ticketed two of his fellow borough wardens. "They couldn't say a lot," he says. "I'm really out to get anybody. I don't do any cars that are not parked illegally. Every car that I find is parked illegally gets a ticket. I can't do one and see four down the road and not do them as well. It's not fair, is it?" he argues.

Like many in his profession, Greenidge has come in for abuse. "A lot of people consider us scum, but we're just doing a job. Swearing is very common. I get earfuls all the time with people shouting at me and telling me to get a proper job and stuff like that. The worst I got was when somebody spat at me," he reveals.

Some of his colleagues have not been as lucky. "A couple of people have been attacked," he says. "One warden had his

hand-held computer taken off him - I don't know how, but they hit him over the head with it. I think he's still off work now. Another warden got stabbed in the stomach with a screwdriver and on another occasion one got knocked down. So there's been quite a few incidents."

I put it to Greenidge that considering his high strike rate it's surprising that he hasn't been a victim of violence. "I must either be lucky or very skilful," he says. "I'm very diplomatic. I give them a smile and it disarms them."

Although he is worried that once he's featured in the programme he might find that his minutes of fame could produce longer periods of pain, he is convinced that his jovial, hard-but-fair approach to the job will shine through. "People don't hate me," he says. "They hate traffic wardens. I just try my very best and I try to be fair."

The problem remains that while Greenidge may be treading the line between zealousness and effectiveness, incidents such as the one this week, in which a motorist was ticketed simply because his valid ticket was upside down, show that some wardens are clearly crossing that line.

Mike Greenidge appears in *The Clampers* on Monday, June 1, BBC1 at 9.30pm.



She was convicted of the knife attack, caught on security film



She was convicted of the knife attack, caught on security film

## A Galant new approach

There is a no man's land in motoring where the best-equipped mass volume saloon cars cross over into terrain occupied by cheaper versions of cosseting executive cruisers, a shadowy territory marked out by £20,000 price tags, writes Vaughan Freeman.

For that sort of money drivers demand a lot, and Mitsubishi has responded by installing a new V6 engine to power its Galant saloon, not just to keep customers happy, but also to match rival offerings in the shape of the 2.5 litre V6 Ford Mondeo, and Renault 3.0 litre V6 Laguna.

The Galant is a good-looking car, and sufficiently different to make it easy to spot, with a rakish snout to the bonnet, a deep front spoiler, and headlights styled to look purposeful but which seem mean.

Inside, surprisingly, the Galant features not leather upholstery (a £2,000 option) as standard but cloth velour, a covering that might come into its own in future having stood up to knocks and spills, but which looks cheap next to the leather seating of the Mondeo V6 Ghia and the V6 Laguna.

Simulated wood trim on the dashboard inspired one nine-year-old passenger to ask why "Mister Bushy" could not afford real wood in his cars, and plastic wood does look tacky in a £20,615 car. Disappointingly, although Mitsubishi claim the Galant is a car for five adults, the centre rear seat only has a lap belt and no headrest, instead of a preferred lap/diagonal belt.

Where the Galant does score is with its engine. This V6 is smooth, nicely aggressive when revved hard, and pours on the power right through the rev range to give all the acceleration anyone could want. There is almost too much power since the front-wheel drive set-up and 161bhp means that over-enthusiastic acceleration will cause the steering wheel to pull to one side as the front wheels twitch.

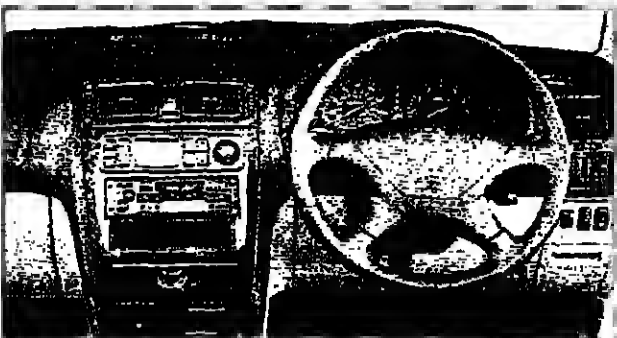
The delightful V6 is matched to a five-speed manual gearbox (there is also a four-speed automatic) that is very slick and precise and which is topped off with a gear stick that, like the steering wheel, is leather trimmed.

At idle, or when cruising, the V6 is so quiet its presence hardly intrudes at all into the passenger compartment. The lack of engine noise at motorway speeds underlines the wind noise and road noise which, unusually for a modern saloon, means front and rear seat passengers have to raise their voices slightly to chat.

Having replaced the former Galant's speed-sensitive power steering with a system dependent on the engine



Mitsubishi's Galant has a new V6 engine and sleek lines that make it easy to spot



At £20,615, simulated wood and velour covers look tacky

**GALANT V6**  
Engine: 2.5-litre, 161bhp, 24-valve V6 petrol. Five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Top speed 141mph, 0-60mph in 8.2 secs. Economy: 21.6mpg in town, 41.5mpg cruising, 31mpg overall. Price: £20,615.

speed, the result is that when travelling at motorway speeds but with relatively low engine revs, the steering can feel too light, offering too little resistance and road feel.

Overall though the drive is enjoyable, the seats very comfortable, and layout of the dashboard, especially the audio and air conditioning controls, makes for ease of use, although the heating does annoyingly beep each time it is altered. A useful rear seat-back that splits and opens gives access to the boot, allow-

ing longer loads to be carried. After decades of carmakers saying safety did not sell cars, everything has changed and it is a priority on the Galant.

For the first time in Europe, the V6 Galant gets side airbags, mounted on the outer sides of the front seat backrests and which inflate if the car is hit side-on at speeds above 19mph. Which is comforting for those in the front, but do rear-seat passengers not deserve similar protection?

The Galant is a worthy contender in a sector where the £22,000 Laguna and £21,225 Mondeo are the main competition, and its prime draw is that superb engine and good looks. A three-year warranty, still a rarity even at this level, highlights Mitsubishi's faith in its product, and is one of the main factors behind what Mitsubishi claims to be one of the highest rates of customer loyalty with owners returning again and again to buy another "Mister Bushy".



Four flash Mini Coopers have been delivered to the four flash members of Britpop band Ocean Colour Scene. The band and the famous compact car are both products of Birmingham - motor city UK. The Mini's home is the Rover Group's Longbridge factory, close to the recording studio where the band recorded its Sixties-sound hit album, *Moseley Shoals*.

Four flash Mini Coopers have been delivered to the four flash members of Britpop band Ocean Colour Scene. The band and the famous compact car are both products of Birmingham - motor city UK. The Mini's home is the Rover Group's Longbridge factory, close to the recording studio where the band recorded its Sixties-sound hit album, *Moseley Shoals*.

Vertical sidebar with various advertisements including 'PRICES PER PERSON', '445 5656', and 'ANGING TIME'.



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PORSCHE 1998 Porsche Carrera 4, 1998 Porsche Carrera 2

PORSCHE WANTED WANTED: 1998 Porsche Carrera 4, 1998 Porsche Carrera 2

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VOLKSWAGEN WANTED WANTED: 1998 Volkswagen Golf, 1998 Volkswagen Jetta

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THE TIMES... Summertime, and En r... than... Comec bit on... John Naish on serious money behind the joke... sicker image... Wallace...



Summertime, and the French are revolting; but armed with a little inside information, there are ways round snarl-ups caused by the striking truckers

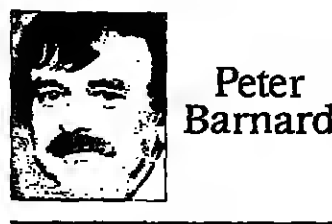
# En route to a less than 'appy'oliday

**A** French lorry driver writes: Allo, je m'appelle Jean-Paul and I have many concerns about you English and your summer vacances en France. Oh yes, I am writing to you from my cab in the lane number two of the A10 par Amiens. Sacrebleu, I fear you cry, why is this mad France-homme writing a letter at 90kph? Ha, ha, ha. Do not fear. Moving I am not, I am not moving now for deux jours and be'ind me as I write are 36 tonnes of tomatoe all going to rot, as you are saying.

So pourquoi? First, I want to make clear that in England I've many amis. My tomatoe and my cow you say? My spud are tres populaire in your marche à Pershore, which is where I would be headed for now, but for this petit protest.

Number deux, let me say that

## DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



**Peter Barnard**

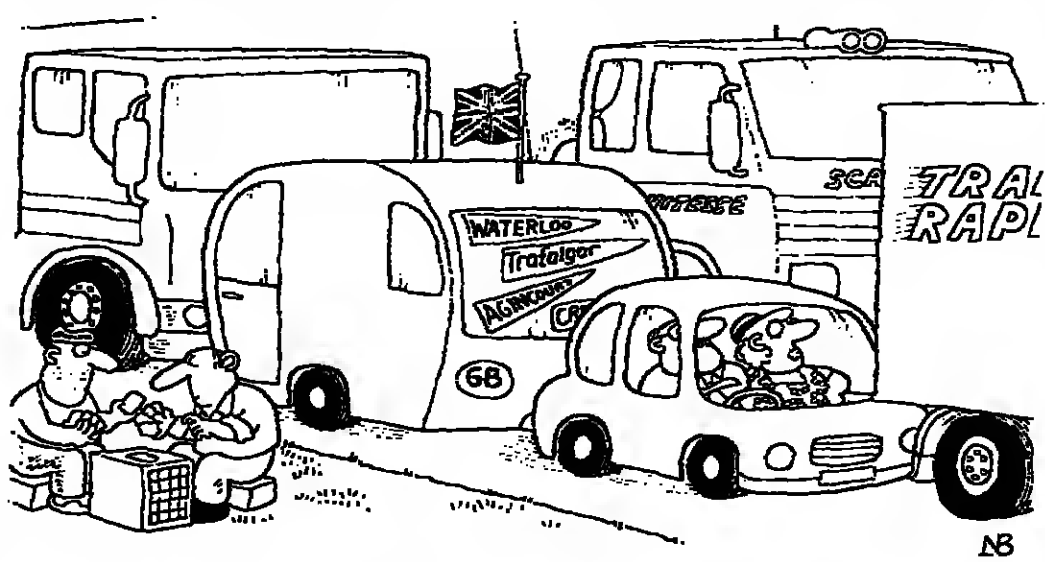
This is not about the Coupe du Monde. Oh non. We already stop British fans going to the football by 'aving tout les billets sold to the French, so no probleme with that. Ha ha ha. Non, notre argument is with the France Government, which is a rabble. This is why we are blocking la route and causing

le chaos. First the Government give us promise: more money less work. Now the Government they say, no, we never said that. 'Ow can we be expected to put up with this chickeny?

On my visits to England, stopping for the manager at your Petit Chef on the autoroute M2, I've heard many times your lorry drivers say that blocking the route would never 'appen en Angleterre.

If all the lorry drivers come to an 'all 'ere, people say, vitement. At which point I mention the famous M25, where the lorries queue nose to tail every jour, and I say, 'ow can you tell? Who can know what conspiracy is going on 'ere?

Of course the disputes which from time to time we 'ave en France 'ave also their side benefits. Ah oui, I myself, pour exemple,



'ave learnt languages several while sining in the cab on the autoroute protesting over this pay cut or that increase in the heures de travail.

I now 'ave a vast collection of audio tapes in my cab, tapes provided by the école Berlitz, and I have played these tapes to learn Italia, Greek, German and English. Ou est the English lorry driver who knows more than three words in French, one of which is merde?

So I am using my skills of language to write this advice to the English tourists who are coming 'ere this summer. First of all, avoid the autoroutes. Lorry drivers do not protest on minor roads because there are not as many eating places or girl hitchhikers. Also, the television camera hommes cannot find us if we leave

that they cannot bring themselves to do so for a week or two. So at night you will not be bothered by, how-you-say, those picketers standing in the road, scratching their stubble and staring at your lady wife as you go passe.

**B**ut I've news as well as advice. The news is that this summer the number of lorry blockades will be reduced compared with years previous due to the transport unions loterie which 'as just taken place à Paris. It appears that the winners are the pilots of Air France and we try not to 'ave lorry drivers and pilots on strike at the same temps. Is no good pour notre public image.

So, as Monsieur Berlitz is telling me, we 'ave come fool circle. You started out worrying over thousands of English football 'ooligans ruining your vacances en France and making you 'ide your 'ead in shame. Now that I've rested your mind about the lorry drivers, you are back to worrying about the 'ooligans.

On one of Mr Berlitz tapes, he is 'aving a fraise about the English being their own worst enemy. In France this summer, I sink this fraise will be, as you say, very 'andy. Au revoir.



Beyond the flat-cap image: Tony Regan's £21,000 worth of big Honda and huge chair

# Electrifying performance from a kart

**E**rnie, Benny Hill's heroic milkman, would have loved one of these. It is an electric kart that whips to its 31mph top speed almost faster than you can say "two pins of silver-top and a yoghurt". It has Formula One-type telemetry and is powered by one of the world's most advanced electric motors, Jan Adcock writes.

The Zytex E-Kart is as far removed from a milk float as your average family saloon is from Mika Hakkinen's F1 McLaren.

Most people think of electric karts as the kiddies' vehicles you see trundling around at the seaside, not adult-sized machines based on a silicon-bronze Bowman Pro-kart chassis that can be four-wheel drifted through corners.

Zytex, the maker, is one of those typical unsung heroes of the British motor industry. The firm's expertise ranges from Formula 3000 engine technology to producing engine-management systems for Bentley, Jaguar and Aston Martin. It is also a world leader in advanced electric motors.

This expertise has been distilled into the E-Kart. Power comes from an 8hp brushless DC motor, which doesn't sound very impressive, but 51ft/lb of torque from zero rpm certainly is. And that is what gives the E-Kart its impressive acceleration. With standard gearing, that means going from rest to its 31mph top speed in less than five seconds.

Power is stored in aircraft-specification lead gel, nickel cadmium, batteries mounted each side of the driver, well away from any likely impact or potential damage. These

supply up to 40 minutes' race time. Its unique computer-controlled regenerative braking system uses the kart's kinetic energy to recharge the batteries by running the motor as a generator when it is not producing power.

It takes time to get used to this aspect of the kart when you first drive it, as lifting the throttle increases the braking effect, similar to the engine braking you get in a four-stroke engine. Once you become acclimatised, the conventional brake becomes almost redundant.

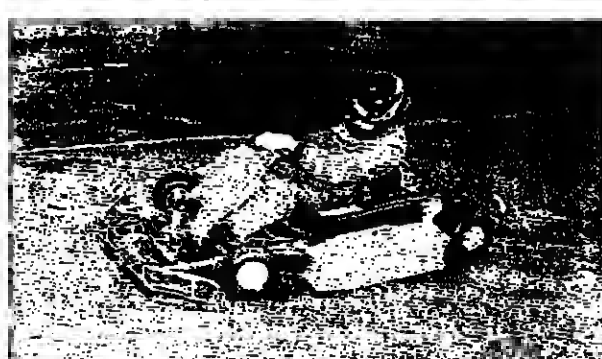
If you use both, it is as if you have run into a pool of superglue. What really impresses is the acceleration out of corners, leading to four-wheel drifts as you slide your way round the track.

Although costly, at £2,500 it is dear when compared with conventional two-stroke karts. The E-kart is environmentally friendlier, cheaper to run at only a few pence per charge, and a bit less noisy.

If the driver becomes too reckless, the trackside managers can use the FI-type telemetry system to slow him down or even stop. They can also slow down one kart to let the others catch up if they want to make the race more exciting.

What is more, children are less likely to come to any harm as the power can be limited to one of 16 settings, from milk-float speed upwards, and for really long tracks the kart can be geared to a thrilling 50mph.

Being fume-free and relatively quiet, Zytex sees a future for its E-Karts in shopping malls — without the shoppers, of course — or leisure centres where temporary kart tracks could be easily established.



The E-kart is quiet enough to race precinct grand prix

## WIN GOODWOOD FESTIVAL PRIZES

**THE GOODWOOD** Festival of Speed begins on Friday June 12. Over its three days some of the most exciting and exotic four and two-wheeled racers will gather at the stunning Sussex estate.

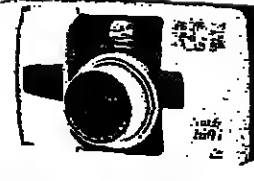
You too can be part of the action by entering this Times/Nikon competition to win both a seat as co-driver in the Nikon Rally Sprint and a top Nikon camera.

The winner will co-drive one of the cars, be a guest of Nikon's hospitality and win a Nikon 160i Advanced Photo System camera worth £299.99, with a 30-125mm power-zoom lens and built-in flash.

Simply answer this question: What is the zoom range of the Nikon Nuvis 160i? Send your answers on a postcard.

with your name and address, to Alistair Robins, Nikon House, 380 Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 5PR, by Thursday June 4.

The winner will be the first correct answer drawn. Normal Times competition rules apply. Entrants must be over 18 and have a full driving licence.



Nikon 160i — part of the prize

# Comedy with a bit on the side



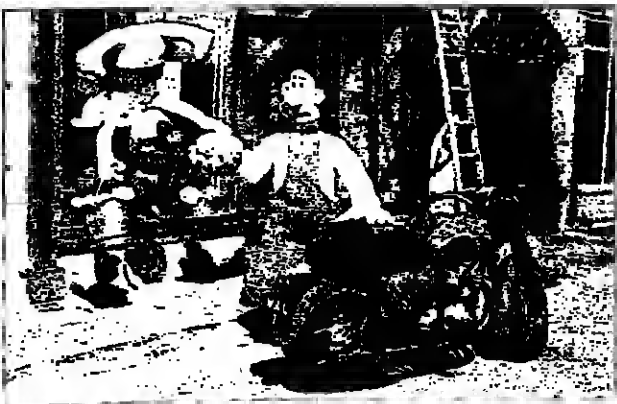
Wicked combo? Indonesia's former President Suharto steers; new President Habibie chairs

## John Naish on serious money behind the joke sidecar image

**T**hink transport, think comedy, and what do you get? The motorcycle and sidecar. As Wallace and Gromit and the Two Fat Ladies amply show, the motorcycle combination has fallen from its heyday as cheap pre and postwar mass transport into its current role as instant chortle-prompter on wheels: motoring's Morecambe and Wise.

But behind the working-class joke image lies a different reality — a big-money business where a hardcore of enthusiasts will pay tens of thousands for luxurious top-level leviathans. For unlike its fellow obsolete transportation modes, the zeppelin and the horse-drawn chariot, the sidecar refuses to go away.

Ninety-five years after the Graham brothers of Enfield patented the idea, people are still happily carrying on in their combinations. Tony Regan, a driver for the John Lewis chain, is typical of the modern breed. His outfit comprises a 1500cc Honda



Wallace and Gromit: wrong trousers, right combinations

Goldwing — with reverse gear — propelling a chair with dimensions that would qualify for council tax if it remained stationary too long. He bought the combination late last year: it tips the scales at a frightening 800lb dry, and cost him a cool £21,000 — £15,000 for the Honda, the rest for the sidecar and its customised paint and cowhide interior.

Regan, from Fulham in southwest London, got into sidecars four years ago, after being knocked off his wife's motorbike. "The accident prevented me returning to two wheels, because I could not change gear and my balance change gear and my balance had been affected. Having a combination meant I could



Tony and Jaqui Regan, dressed for excess: Tony got into sidecars after a motorcycle crash



Comedy moment: John Naish tries to control this unlikely lot



Two Fat Ladies, with weighed-down Watsonian sidecar

— including Wallace, Gromit, and that large cooking duo — belong to the British Federation of Sidecar Clubs, which is celebrating its ruby anniversary. "It's a bit of a grand title for an organisation with 500 UK members," says John Hind, the Federation's legal officer.

"The club formed in response to small cheap cars such as the Mini being launched, which killed the sidecar as the working man's transport. But we are still

going strong, and are organising a tour of Britain's surviving sidecar-builders to celebrate the anniversary."

By far the biggest of these is Watsonian-Squire, which began trading in 1911 and now sells around 250-300 sidecars a year, many of them to Germany, Scandinavia and Japan. "Everyone keeps telling us that sidecars are coming back, but they have never gone away," says its director, Peter Fletcher. "We've seen an in-

ATURDAY MAY 30 1998

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THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 30 1998. LIZANNE ROSE you find a foreign... M... you might... WITH YOU MIGHT MO... financial a...





OUT IN THE COLD 63

Don't miss out when buying your annuity

WEEKEND MONEY

COVER-UP 58

Will the OEIC umbrella funds help or harm?



The £40bn sleeping beauties

Lizanne Rose explains what to do if you find a forgotten savings account

More than a year after Alliance & Leicester converted from a building society to a bank, 70,000 of its members have yet to claim their windfall shares...

It is impossible to calculate how much money is unclaimed in these sleeping accounts around the country but it is estimated that the figure may be as high as £40 billion.

Here Weekend Money looks at the steps to take if you find an old building society passbook or if you have lost contact with your bank.

BANKS

Before a personal savings or current account is classed as "dormant", all banks will make attempts to trace the account holder.

usual. If, after a set time (usually between six and 12 weeks) the bank does not hear from you, your account will be considered "dormant".

SOCIETIES

Most building societies follow a similar procedure although as you are not normally sent monthly statements, there is less correspondence by post and therefore a lower security risk.

Some building societies will have a major sweep of their accounts every few years - Bradford & Bingley did so in 1995.

NEXT STEPS

All banks and building societies will make a concerted effort to contact their customers. However, if the lines of communication have broken down it is then up to you to contact the bank or building society to recover your money.

bank branch or your bank's head office. You will have to confirm that you would be able to prove your identity and, if the account is not in your name, provide proof of your legal claim on the account.

bank's complaints procedure. If you find a building society passbook which has been unused for some time, the Building Societies Association recommends that you take it to your local branch with some form of identification.

WHO OWNS WHOM NOW

Mergers and name changes have rendered many building societies extinct. The list below shows which banks and building societies now own some of these.

- ABBEY NATIONAL - Highgate, Oak Co-operative, State.
■ ALLIANCE & LEICESTER - Leicester, Alliance, Boston & Skirbeck.
■ BIRMINGHAM MIDSHIRES - Birmingham & Bridgwater, Ealing & Acton, Harrow, Hemel Hempstead, King Edward, Midshires.
■ BRADFORD & BINGLEY - Bexhill-on-Sea, Birmingham Central, Chorley Permanent Benefit, Clapham Permanent, Dover & Folkestone, Foresters, Glamorgan, Hampshire, Hearts of Oak & Enfield, Hendon, Hibernian, Horsham, Housing & General, Hyde, Leamington Spa, Louth, Mablethorpe & Sutton, Merseyside, Padiham, Saddleworth Permanent Benefit, Scholes Permanent Benefit, Sheffield, Spread Eagle Perpetual Benefit, Stanley, Stockport Mersey, Target, United Provinces.
■ BRISTOL & WEST - Brighton, Hove & Preston, Caledonian, Chelmsford & Essex, Cheshunt, Greater Brighton & District Permanent, Gresham Circle, North Heris, Pontypool Permanent, Poole, Royal Mutual Benefit, Wilchester Permanent.
■ BRITANNIA - Alfreton, Blackheath, Colne, Denton, Driffield, Glantawe Permanent, Mornington, Over Darwen, Stoke-on-Trent Permanent, Welsh Economic, Westbury & District Permanent.
■ CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER - Bedford, Bolton, Bury St. Edmunds, Cardiff, Colchester, Cotswold, Guardian, Heart of England, London Permanent, Mid-Sussex, North London, Peckham, Portsmouth, Waltham Abbey, Walthamstow.
■ HALIFAX - Chertsey, Haydock & Colborne Permanent Society, Leeds Permanent, Newton, Wakefield.
■ NATIONAL & PROVINCIAL - Burnley, Haslemere.
■ NATIONWIDE - Anglia, City of Derry, Marlborough, Nationwide Anglia.
■ NORTHERN ROCK - Blyth & Morpeth District Permanent, Deal & Walmer, East Liverpool Incorporated, Falkirk, Hartlepool & District, Kidderminster Permanent, Kilmarnock, Lancastrian, Lancashire, Liverpool Charter, Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, Musselburgh, North of England, Pioneer, Shields & Washington, South Shields Sun Permanent, Stockport & County Permanent, Surrey, United Kingdom, Walker & Byker Industrial Permanent, Wishaw Investment.
■ PORTMAN - Bideford, Citizens Regency, North Wilts Ridgeway, Paddington, Peckham Permanent, Portman Wessex, Ramsbury, Regency & West of England, St. Martins le Grand, St. Pancras, Sussex Mutual, Wessex, Western Counties.
■ WOOLWICH - Gateway, Grangemouth, London Grosvenor, New Cross, North Kent, Property Owners, Town & Country, Woolwich Equitable.



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Advertisement for Gartmore High Income Fund. Text: "The time is now." For a high return, there's no time like the present to take a look at the Gartmore High Income Fund. Includes a table of performance data and contact information for Gartmore Investment Limited.







### Mutuality's last gasp?

Nationwide Building Society has just unveiled a £12 million package for members to convince them of the benefits of remaining mutual. It has come one year too late.

The measures should have been launched last summer just after the society had succeeded in defeating by a significant margin the carpetbaggers who were pressing for conversion.

That way, the Nationwide's members would have had plenty of time to appreciate the finer points of the new scheme.

A second vote on whether the society should demutualise and hand over approximately £2,000 per member is looming next month.

Unfortunately for Nationwide, the benefits of the package - which includes cheaper cash withdrawals from ATMs and no fees for duplicate statements - tend to build up over time.

Likewise, new mortgage customers attracted to the society because they like the idea of not having to pay redemption charges on standard mortgages will not have their applica-



COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY  
Personal Finance  
Deputy Editor

tions approved for several months, by which time Nationwide's fate will have been decided.

At present, mutuals are making efforts to demonstrate that they have the edge in savings and mortgage rates, although, as we report on page 64, some of the savings are dwarfed by the stock market growth of windfall shares.

Nevertheless, savers who stuck around for the conversion bonuses from Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and the two other societies had the option of moving on to mutuals with better interest rates when they were free to do so.

If Nationwide becomes a bank and triggers another wave of demutualisations among its fellow building societies, savers seeking a home for their funds will not have that luxury for long.

#### Above average

IT IS not often that fund managers expressly promise to give investors an "average" return on their money, as NPI is pledging to do with its new Managed Tracker Fund.

Designed to be part of NPI's existing pensions stable, the fund aims to ensure that its returns are just above the average performance of the biggest general managed funds.

This way, NPI says, policyholders can be confident that their pension fund will never appear at the bottom of the league table. However, it is also unlikely ever to turn up right at the top.

Given the poor past performance of some of NPI's other funds, this new frankness is a change for the better.

### Rate discrepancies called to account



Perhaps the banks need a little of the discipline Jimmy Edwards dished out in Whack-O

High street banks and building societies could be made to transfer savers to higher rate accounts whenever they launch a more competitive product with the same or shorter notice periods. If proposals to tighten up the banking code are accepted.

David Davis, the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, is asking the Government to consider a number of ways of dealing with banks and building societies which launch attractive new accounts and then cut interest payments when bank rates are rising or static. The proposals will be submitted as part of the Treasury's review of banking practices launched earlier this month.

Mr Davis, Tory MP for Haltemprice and Howden, Humberside, said it was improper that some banks and building societies were using money from current customers to subsidise better rates to attract new savers. The proposals follow the debacle surrounding Northern Rock's account restructuring last

month. The Newcastle bank reduced the number of accounts from 11 to three, slashing rates without warning and leaving some 200,000 savers worse off.

The changes prompted a deluge of complaints from angry savers and resulted in an investigation by the Office of Fair Trading.

Northern Rock has since suspended all notice periods on savings accounts, allowing savers to move to accounts paying better interest. However, Mr Davis is concerned similar practices are endemic at other institutions. Offenders include Lloyds TSB, Midland, Alliance & Leicester, Bradford & Bingley and Scarborough Building Society.

Under Mr Davis's proposals, banks and building societies should inform each customer individually of any changes and savers should be given the option to move when a new account is introduced with higher rates but more restrictive withdrawal conditions than a similar account. If the terms are less restrictive, Mr Davis believes

institutions should move savers automatically.

Abolishing obsolete accounts and transferring savers into products paying better rates can cost banks and building societies millions. Bradford & Bingley spent £5 million a year in extra interest payments in 1996 when it reorganised 740,000 accounts, streamlining 200 different types of products into nine.

The British Bankers' Association raised concerns about the practicalities of implementing some of the ideas. A spokesman said: "We need to examine the logistics involved more closely. It's in everybody's interest to find a solution as quickly as possible and that's what we are aiming at."

The Building Societies Association said: "These are exactly the sort of issues that will be thrown into the discussions in due course. We are pleased Mr Davis has taken such an interest in this issue."

SUSAN EMMETT

# £8,000 Profit from this PEP in 5 years<sup>(1)</sup>

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Sources 1-3: Microplot buying price to selling price with gross income reinvested, 03/05/93 to 01/05/98: £6,000 became £14,181, an increase of £8,181. Based on: £3,000 invested in the UK Equity Fund became £6,875 (13/112 in sector), £2,000 invested in the UK Enterprise Fund became £4,818 (11/129 in sector), £1,000 invested in the UK Smaller Companies Fund became £2,488 (16/57 in sector).

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Since the start, the emphasis at Victoria Investment Club has been to enjoy themselves and to make a little extra

## Champagne Charlies

Rioting in Indonesia, financial panic in Russia and volatility in the FTSE 100 index have failed to dampen optimism at the Victoria Investment Club in Truro, Cornwall. There, the champagne is flowing because the members' portfolio is now worth £11,047 plus £2,688 in cash. The portfolio's value is divided into units of equal worth so that members can easily work out what their individual holdings are.

Weekend Money has been monitoring the fortunes of two investment clubs since last June. Matthew Wall revisited them in the week that European and UK stock markets were hit by turmoil in Russia and the economic crisis in Asia looked set to deteriorate further, to see how they have coped with these economic rollercoasters

And, for the first time, the value of each unit has grown above £2. Some members have many more units than others, and any member can

buy and sell units at the prevailing unit price. The unit system is also useful for the possible occasion that a member wants to withdraw some cash or to leave the investment club altogether.

Recently, two members wanted to sell some units and the club was able to pay out £1,770 from its cash reserves, thus leaving the portfolio intact. The club has felt little effect from the dramatic events in Russia and Asia because it invests mostly in smaller UK companies. However, there have been two changes to the portfolio since the last visit by *The Times*.

The members have sold their entire holding of Robert Walters, the information technology recruitment agency, at a profit of £2,228.48, and have spent £1,500 on 2,337 shares in Albermarle & Bond, a pawnbroker listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM). The profit of more than £2,000 on Robert Walters is not a cause

for celebration, according to Derek Richards, a former chairman of the club. "The share price started dropping and we didn't know why, so we called an emergency meeting and decided to sell the lot," he said. "We sold at 475p. Then the share price bounced back almost immediately to over 500p." The new addition, Albermarle, was shortlisted after the monthly trawl through Company Refs, the company information source. Both turnover and profits were showing healthy increases and one of the club members, who is a retired bank manager, was particularly impressed with its cheque casting service, which he believes is a growing market.

The second investment club being monitored by *The*

*Times* is the Maydown Mergers Investment Club in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. It is now down to 13 members, and monthly contributions have been increased from £30 to £40 and everyone has been assigned a task, whether tracking existing shares held in the portfolio, or seeking out and researching new buying opportunities.

Mike Carroll, the club chairman, said: "We had to sell several shares to raise the cash to pay off the members who were leaving. Although this cost us £5,500, it has actually made our portfolio much more focused and it looks a lot healthier."

Two financial stocks, Norwich Union and Woolwich, were ditched. Norwich made a profit of £324.72, while the Woolwich made just £68.25. Their Powerscreen debacle still hurts, and the club eventually sold out of the troubled engineering company taking a £1,600 hit.

Members draw comfort, however, from the fact that further delay would have cost them even more. The share price is now languishing at around 110p, compared with a year-high of 763.5p. The remaining stocks in the portfolio are all doing well except Chiroscience, the biotech company. Mayflower, the Midlands-based vehicle engineering company, is showing a

profit of more than 100 per cent for the club over two years. Galen Holdings, the pharmaceutical manufacturer, is up 72 per cent.

The recent "yes" vote in the referendum in Ireland has turned the club's attention to the increasing investment opportunities north and south of the border. Some club members have been assigned the task of researching the Celtic "tiger" phenomenon, to look for up-and-coming companies.

Mr Carroll said: "We want to buy more stocks but we will be more cautious now. There is no harm in having cash and waiting for the right share to come along."

"We will have a good look around and track a share for some months before buying."

A new managed fund has been launched by NPI, the mutual life insurer, for its pension portfolio, which aims to track world stock markets as well as investing in gilts and property (Marianne Curphey writes). Dubbed the "managed tracker", the fund is aimed at cautious investors who are happy to see an average return on their savings. The fund will replicate the

## Fund for the careful

average portfolios of 83 UK-based managed funds, track the North American, Latin American, Japanese, European, UK and other markets, as well as index-linked gilts, cash and NPI's property fund. Alastair Lyons, the chief executive, said: "This is aimed at people who require a broad base to their investment and

high confidence that it will not underperform the sector." Ian Millward, investment marketing director at Chase de Vere Investments, the independent financial adviser, said: "It is not going to be a brilliant performer but it should be somewhere in the middle and that is the security many look for from their

pension. The charging structure is better value for lower premiums or lump sum investments than for premiums of more than £100 a month. "It is not a tracker in the conventional sense because, unlike Virgin or Legal & General, it is not seeking to replicate a single index. "NPI's managed funds have not performed particularly well in the past and this is a welcome addition."

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The price started falling, so we had an emergency meeting and sold at 475p. It jumped back to over 500p

profit of more than 100 per cent for the club over two years. Galen Holdings, the pharmaceutical manufacturer, is up 72 per cent. The recent "yes" vote in the referendum in Ireland has turned the club's attention to the increasing investment opportunities north and south of the border. Some club members have been assigned the task of researching the Celtic "tiger" phenomenon, to look for up-and-coming companies. Mr Carroll said: "We want to buy more stocks but we will be more cautious now. There is no harm in having cash and waiting for the right share to come along." "We will have a good look around and track a share for some months before buying."

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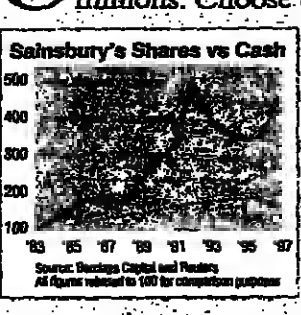
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Hazel Spink hears a note of discord on the rapid growth of OEICs

Umbrella funds take a soaking from advisers

Some of the biggest names in fund management, including Fidelity and Standard Life, have come under attack for planning to convert their existing unit trusts to OEICs - a move which some observers claim will significantly disadvantage investors.

Open-ended investment companies, or OEICs as they are known, are a new type of collective investment scheme which, like unit trusts and investment trusts, pool investor's money to reduce risk.

Unlike unit trusts, however, putting your money into an OEIC means you buy shares in a company set up specially for the task, rather than into a trust.

They are supposedly designed to be easier for investors to understand because they will trade at one price, unlike a unit trust which has a gap between the buying and the selling price, known as the bid offer spread.

Household names in fund management are already in the process of switching from unit trusts to OEICs or have announced plans to change. Rothschild Asset Management, Threadneedle and Save & Prosper have already launched OEICs. Those planning to change include Standard Life, Fidelity and Edinburgh Fund Managers.

Within the next few years most fund management groups are expected to convert. They argue that OEICs, with their single price and company (rather than trust) structure, will be easier for investors to understand than unit trusts. In addition, because they offer single pricing, OEICs are expected to be more marketable throughout Europe.

Furthermore, it is claimed, OEICs will be cheaper to buy and easier to switch and because groups are deciding to convert their unit trusts to a range of sub funds under one umbrella fund, there will be greater flexibility for the companies to develop their products.

However, some investment experts have questioned fund management groups' motives for converting their unit trusts to OEICs, arguing that they have their own, rather than



Useful in the rain - but an expensive way to shield assets

investors' interests at heart. Roddy Kohn, the managing director of financial advisers Kohn Cougar, said: "As far as I can see, OEICs offer no tangible benefits to investors and there are some potentially serious disadvantages. Marketing considerations are the most influential factor in this move to convert unit trusts to OEICs."

First, groups want to be able to market their funds into Europe, he said. Secondly, it will be cheaper and easier for groups to add new sub funds to an umbrella-style OEIC than it is for them currently to launch a new unit trust.

Mark Robinson, investment manager at Berry Asset Management said: "In many cases this move is marketing-driven. Groups want to be able to sell their products into Europe. I do not expect OEICs to be significantly cheaper for investors - fund management groups will still bolt on all the same charges they currently levy. OEICs are being presented as the best thing since sliced bread but, while I accept there is an argument for coming into line

with the rest of Europe, I do not think UK investors will benefit greatly."

There are two serious concerns with OEICs. The first is the potential for the fund management group to introduce a so-called discretionary dilution levy and the second is known as contagion.

Scipients say that if you add the dilution charge to the OEIC's initial charge you get a bid-offer spread in disguise.

The aim of a dilution levy would be to guard against dilution of the fund's assets during times of particularly active trading, thus protecting the interests of existing investors.

Long term investors in the fund stand to lose out because of the use of a single price.

To guard against extreme cases of dilution, fund managers reserve the right to charge a dilution levy to a deal which they believe will adversely affect the interests of existing investors.

M&G, while accepting that OEICs are the way forward, has reservations about dilution levies. Jeffrey Mushens, director, sales and marketing opportunities, said: "We think these levies make matters more complicated than they need to be and believe there are simpler alternatives."

M&G has no immediate plans to convert its unit trusts to OEICs.

The second serious concern is known as contagion. If one of the funds under the OEIC umbrella is unable to meet its liabilities or defaults, other funds can be called upon to bail it out.

To counter this criticism, Fidelity has taken out contagion insurance to guard against this "extremely unlikely event".

Threadneedle currently has no such insurance in place but is looking at taking it out to allay investors' fears.

Jonathan Cusance Baker, chairman of Exeter Fund Managers, said: "OEICs offer simplicity, clarity and efficiency and will therefore no doubt continue to be resisted by certain parts of the investment industry who have their own agendas in which investors appear to play a very small role."

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Funeral expenses... intended to ensure that families can afford the cost of a funeral if a loved one dies. But a worrying case reported by a 19-year-old reader shows that policyholders will benefit only if they die within a few years of taking out their policy.

Clare Stewart re...

OFF over

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has warned that the UK funeral industry is in the midst of a major restructuring. The OFT has received a large number of complaints from consumers who have been misled by funeral directors about the cost of their services.

The OFT has also warned that the funeral industry is in the midst of a major restructuring. The OFT has received a large number of complaints from consumers who have been misled by funeral directors about the cost of their services.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Breakdown cover for European trips

The cost of repatriation of a family saloon car from France could be as much as £700, making breakdown cover for day trips or longer holidays in Europe essential.

Age Concern's European breakdown cover includes up to £250 for roadside repairs, no cost limit on dispatch of replacement parts, and repatriation of the insured vehicle if it cannot be repaired abroad.

Nationwide Building Society is cutting the cost of its credit card with effect from Monday. The standard rate will be reduced from 16.9 per cent to 16.5 per cent for all customers and the annual fee will be removed altogether.

Increases in savings rates will boost the returns for many savers at Birmingham Midshires. From Tuesday, the building society's SmartStart children's account, which is also available to young people up to the age of 22 who are in full-time education, pays 7.50 per cent on the minimum opening investment of £25.

The Quantum Instant Plus branch-based account, where rates are linked to the number of transactions made each year, offers a 4.50 per cent on more than £500 and 6.25 per cent on balances of more than £5,000.

For more information, call Birmingham Midshires' Retailine on 0645-720 721.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Standard Life Bank, Scottish Widows Bank, Safeway, First National.

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Scarborough BS, Legal & General Bank, First National, Woolwich.

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Norwich & Peterborough, Bradford & Bingley, Darlington BS, Sun Bank.

Table with columns: Card type, Interest per month, APR%, Fee per annum. Includes Capital One, RBS, Nationwide.

Table with columns: Personal Loans, APR, Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance, no insurance. Includes Northern Rock, Yorkshire Bank, Direct Line.

Table with columns: Gross coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, Issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Includes Birmingham Midshires, Bradford & Bingley, Bradford & Bingley, Bradford & Bingley.

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bank of Scotland, 0545 812812, 0545 6050500, Bank of Ireland.

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bank of Scotland, 0545 812812, 01246 202055, Scarborough.

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bank of Scotland, 0545 812812, 01246 202055, Scarborough.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Wtd % Yld. Includes AEGION LIFE ASSURANCE, BLACK HORSE LIFE, ABNEY LIFE.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Wtd % Yld. Includes GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE, HALFAY LIFE LTD, LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURE.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Wtd % Yld. Includes EUROPEAN LIFE ASSURANCE, HALFAY LIFE LTD, LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURE.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Wtd % Yld. Includes GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE, HALFAY LIFE LTD, LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURE.

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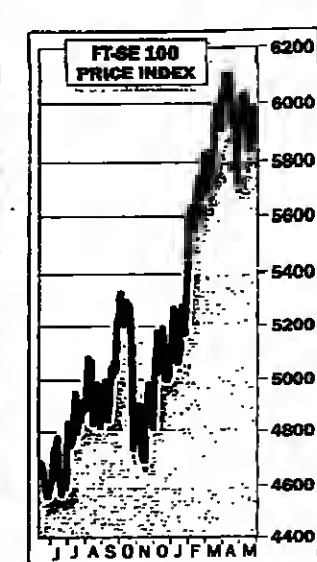
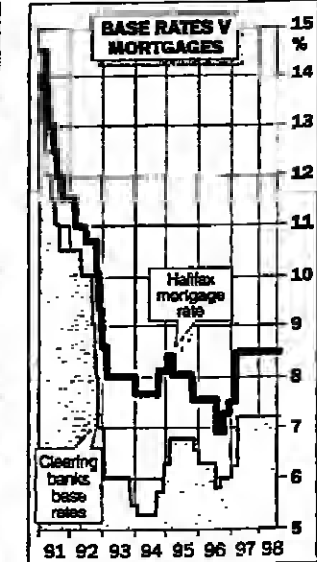


Table with columns: Gross rate, At tax rates 20%, 40%, Minimum investment £, Notice, Contact. Includes Ordinary A/c, Investment A/c, Income Bond, First Opt Bond, 4th Incentive Cert, Children's Bond, Capital Bonds, 13th Ind Linked, Pennine Bond.

Table with columns: Single Life (level ann), Female: Age 60, Age 65, Age 70. Includes Legal & General, Equitable Life, Standard Life, Canada Life, Sun Life.

Table with columns: Single Life, Female: Age 60, Age 65, Age 70. Includes Equitable Life, Canada Life, Norwich Union, Scottish Widows, Sun Life.

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bristol & West, Westleyman Hm Lns, Halifax, Sun Banking, Alliance & Leicester.

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bank of Scotland, 0545 812812, 01246 202055, Scarborough, Leeds & Holbeck, Staffordshire.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Wtd % Yld. Includes META LIMITED, EUROPEAN LIFE ASSURANCE, SCOTTISH PROVIDENT, SUN LIFE OF CANADA.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Wtd % Yld. Includes GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE, HALFAY LIFE LTD, LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURE.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Wtd % Yld. Includes GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE, HALFAY LIFE LTD, LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURE.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Wtd % Yld. Includes GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE, HALFAY LIFE LTD, LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURE.

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Table with columns: Investment (£), Company, Standard Rate (%). Includes GE Fin Assur, ITT Lon & Edin, Hambro Assured, ITT London & Ed, Hambro Assured.

PIBS

Table with columns: Gross coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, Issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Includes Birmingham Midshires, Bradford & Bingley, Bradford & Bingley, Bradford & Bingley.

LARGER LEENDERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bank of Scotland, 0545 812812, 01246 202055, Scarborough, Leeds & Holbeck, Staffordshire.

LARGER LOANS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bank of Scotland, 0545 812812, 01246 202055, Scarborough, Leeds & Holbeck, Staffordshire.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bristol & West, Westleyman Hm Lns, Halifax, Sun Banking, Alliance & Leicester.

SHARES IN FOCUS

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Wtd % Yld. Includes GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE, HALFAY LIFE LTD, LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURE.

Advertisement for 'Takir' featuring a large image of a person and text describing the product and its benefits.

Advertisement for 'Take a long haul at losing credit' featuring a testimonial from a customer and details about the service.

Advertisement for 'gold mine' featuring a large image of a gold mine and text describing the investment opportunity.

Advertisement for 'DIRECT LINE' featuring a large image of a person and text describing the financial services offered.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'مكتبة من الاصل'.



Clare Stewart assesses the attractions of a new fund investing in renewable energy

# Taking a tilt at wind farms

The appearance of wind farms in some of the most beautiful parts of the countryside has been praised for environmental soundness and cursed as an eyesore. The launch of a new fund to invest in farms has been less controversial, but will it earn investors money?

Triodos Bank, of Bristol, says the objective of the Wind Fund is to invest in small scale renewable-energy developments such as wind farms and hydro schemes. The fund has raised £886,000 already through its first share issue in 1995, and a private placing earlier this year.

Its ambitions with the current issue are rather grander as it is hoping to raise more than £6 million to put into green energy developments. The shares are priced at £1.50 and there is a minimum subscription of 200 shares (£300). There are no charges direct to investors, as the fund pays issue costs. Investment returns will be based on profits generated by the projects in which the fund invests, but no dividends are projected to be paid until 2001. The investments need to be considered on a long-term basis, says the bank. Over a 15-year period, for example, a return of 9 per cent a year is forecasted.

Investors who wish to trade shares can do so through the bank, which matches sellers and purchasers. The fund issue was launched by John Battle, the Energy Minister, and



has won support from groups including Friends of the Earth, the British Wind Energy Association, and the Centre for Alternative Technology, as well as environmental campaigners such as Jonathon Porritt.

Triodos Bank, which was set up in Holland in 1980 and came to the UK in 1995, describes itself as "a social bank, lending exclusively to projects with social and environmental objectives".

So far the Wind Fund has invested in the Haverigg II scheme, part of one of the UK's first wind-power developments in Cumbria, and the Beochlich hydroelectric project, which will generate water-powered energy at Loch Awe, Argyll. To minimise risk, the fund will invest in projects only when they have secured planning permission and benefit from a Non-Fossil Fuel contract which requires electricity suppliers to buy from renewable-energy sources.

The share issue comes at a time when more initiatives are being made to tap sources of renewable energy and there are more moves by groups such

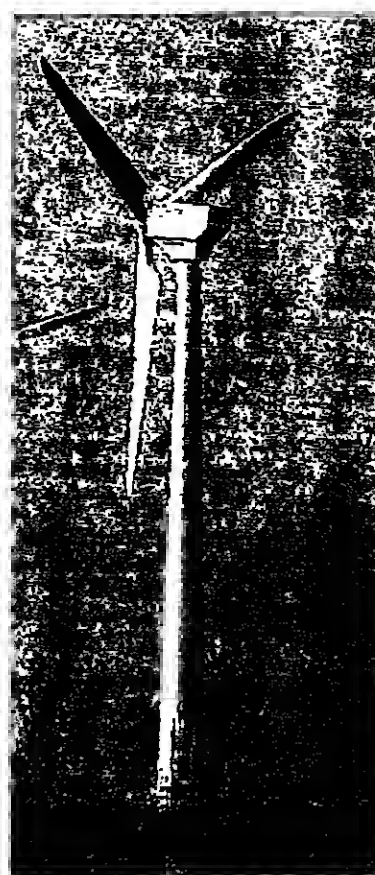
as Shell and the electricity generators to invest in greener energy sources. Eastern Group, the electricity generator and supplier, for example, is promoting an EcoPower scheme where domestic customers can choose to pay an extra 5 or 10 per cent on their bill to go into a fund to support wind, wave and solar power projects. The contributions will be matched by Eastern Electricity.

Wind farm schemes have run into opposition from local residents, who object to the noise and appearance of the turbines, but the Wind Fund says it is interested in developing projects in close consultation with local communities.

Weighing up the attractions of the Wind Fund is difficult as it is too early to compare the performance of the previous share issue with the new offer. A return of 9 per cent over 15 years, if delivered, is attractive, but Mark Bolland, at Chamberlain de Broe, an independent financial adviser, said investors might be better advised to take a different approach.

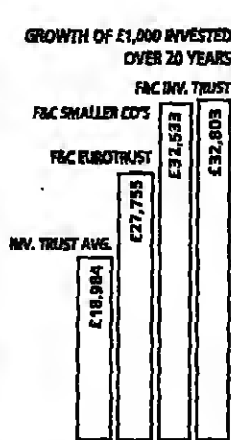
"The principle is laudable. But by putting money into them perhaps you are being environmentally friendly above being an investor," he said.

Score: ★★ Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding). For copies of the Wind Fund plc prospectus call 0800-056 2761 or at www.windfund.co.uk



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### WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

#### Take a long hard look at losing credit cards

From Mr David Hoyle, Sir, Recently, for the third time in the past 15 years, I lost my credit cards.

As on both the previous occasions they were returned to me by a helpful neighbour within about three hours.

However, as before, as soon as I discovered the loss and a fast but thorough search had failed to locate them, I initiated the single cancellation call to the service I employ for that very purpose.

The memory had faded of just what trauma follows the stripping of one's plastic identity. Groceries, petrol, restaurants, even the issuing of cheques backed by guarantee card; all cease well before midnight and with a great deal of pain.

Thank goodness that at the local village branch of my bank - currently threatened with closure - I was

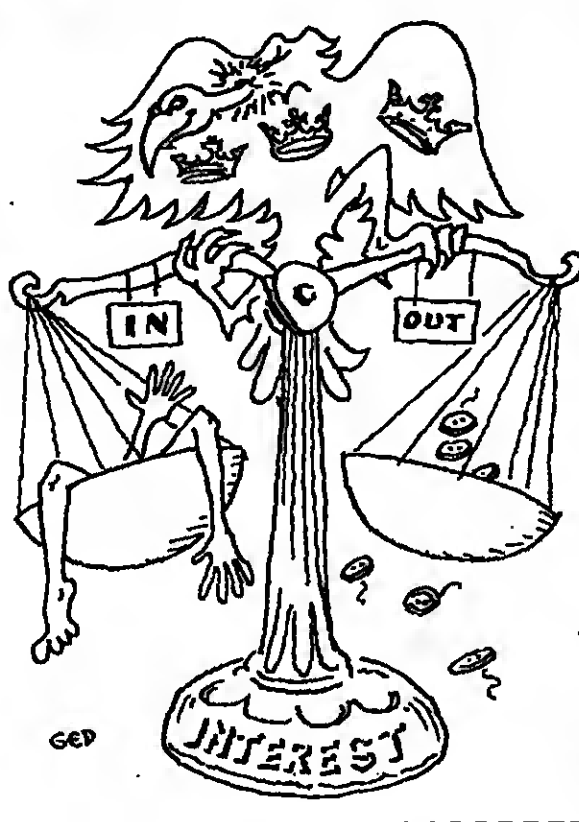
able to cash a cheque because they knew me.

I imagine that despite the great problem of credit card theft and subsequent fraud, the majority of those involved in cancellation, like myself, are reunited with their cards within hours.

That being so, it would appear that the present system of total cancellation, as opposed to a temporary suspension for, say, up to 24 hours, would involve no greater risk for the issuers of cards and a much-needed improvement to the lot of the customer.

My current inclination is certainly not to move so fast next time, which makes the crudity of the present system self-defeating.

Yours faithfully, DAVID R. HOYLE, Firlands, Kingwood Common, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 5NJ.



#### Days of give and take at Barclays

From Mr Martin Benson, Sir, Recently I deposited a cheque into my Barclays Bank current account, which has been in credit for many years. The following day I wrote my own cheque for an identical amount but owing to the time taken for clearance of the credit I was overdrawn by £1,738 for one day.

The interest rate applied by the bank for an unauthorised overdraft on that sum for a day is 26.41 per cent. In the reverse situation in which a credit balance attracts interest the figure paid by the bank is 0.3 per cent. Would you describe the differential as usurious?

Yours faithfully, MARTIN BENSON, Savage Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HD.

#### Moving the Budget day would avoid additional tax codings

From Mr Ron Footer, Sir, With reference to the letter from Mr D. Cox (Weekend Money, May 9) one of the reasons for the additional tax codings is that Budget day has returned to March.

In 1993, the Budget day was

moved to November 30. This meant that the rates of tax were available when the first tax codings for the financial year were sent out so there was no requirement to modify them. This resulted in a significant saving in resources. This

is an example of government not consulting the Inland Revenue when proposing changes. Another example is the allowance restriction to the married couple's allowance which has again cost a great deal of money in administra-

tion. Budget day should be moved back to November and allowance restriction should be abolished. Yours faithfully, RON FOOTER, 15 East Woodside, Bexley, Kent, DA5 3PG.

Unwanted endowment policy? It could be a gold mine. MISSING MILLIONS EXPOSED. Beale Dobie

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Did you know that to receive the maximum pension available, you would typically have to be a member of the same company pension scheme for 40 years? Or that changing your job, even once, could dramatically reduce your pension? So that, just when you have more time to enjoy life, you have less money. Topping up your company pension with an Equitable Free-Standing Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme can help bridge the gap.

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Helen Pridham on the need to shop around at retirement

# Don't get left out in the cold with your annuity

An increasing number of people reaching retirement face one of the most important decisions they will ever have to make about their pension: what type of annuity to buy to provide income.

Whether you have a personal pension or additional voluntary contribution (AVC) or free-standing AVC (FSAVC) scheme, you will need to consider your options carefully. Once you buy an annuity, the decision cannot be altered. It is estimated that between £4 billion and £5 billion of pension policies will reach maturity this year. However, more than 80 per cent of people retiring are expected to stick with their current pension-provider even though they may be able to improve their pension by 9 per cent or more by moving to another company offering better annuity rates.

Stuart Bayliss, of the specialist advisers Annuity Direct, described the situation as a "non-selling" scandal. He said: "Although pension providers must tell customers if they have the open-market option, they certainly do nothing to promote it."

Mr Bayliss blamed pension companies for not putting enough resources into servicing maturing policies and giving inadequate financial rewards to advisers who arrange open-market option annuities. He said: "The commission paid for selling a pension plan is substantial, while the amount paid on annuities is very small by comparison — normally a maximum of 1.3 per cent."

He added that the inefficiency of companies when they are requested to provide information about maturing policies often makes it a very long process. "Even some of the best companies take up to five weeks to provide a maturity statement," he said.

Individuals may decide to do some shopping around for themselves. But Billy Burrows, an annuity specialist, said: "It is not usually a good idea to go shopping without a shopping list. In other words, people need to know what options are available and which type of annuity is most appropriate for their needs. For example, they will need to

## YOU AND YOUR PENSION



consider whether to take their annuity on a single-life or joint-life basis and whether they want a level or escalating pension."

The initial statement you receive from your pension company is likely to show your potential pension on a single life, level payment basis. However, if you are a married man, a joint-life annuity is normally advisable. This way your pension goes on being paid to your spouse after your death, though the cost of providing this on-going pension will mean you get a slightly lower pension initially. A male of 60, for example, with a wife of the same age might get between 10 per cent and 15 per cent less.

The probability that the wife will survive the husband is high. At 60 a man has a life expectancy of 22 years and a woman 27 years. The next question is over the type of pension. These are the main choices of annuities:

■ **Level annuities:** Your pension will stay the same each year throughout your life. It normally provides the highest level of income initially.

■ **Escalating annuities:** These increase each year. Typical choices of escalation rates are 3 per cent or 5 per cent per annum. Payments start lower than a level annuity, but the rising pension will eventually catch up and overtake the level amount.

■ **Index-linked annuities:** The pension from these annuities will rise each year in line with the retail price index.

■ **Investment linked annuities:** These come in with-profit or unit-linked form. Pension payments can rise or fall each year in line with the returns on the underlying investment funds. Investors are normally allowed to take some growth into account so that the starting level for payments is not far below a conventional annuity.

Each type of annuity has its pros and cons. The main attraction of a level annuity is the certainty and relatively high starting pension it provides. However, decreasing interest rates have pushed annuity rates lower and lower in recent years. There is always a danger with a fixed pension that its real value will be gradually eroded over time by inflation.

Although inflation has appeared to be largely under control in recent years, Peter Quinlan, the managing director of the Annuity Bureau, believes the latest 0.5 per cent rise in inflation could signify the start of an upward trend. He says "This may well mean that annuity rates will begin to regain some of their former strength as inflation continues to rise."

For those who want some protection against inflation, escalating annuities may prove more appealing. They give the certainty of a rising income, although if you are 65 at the time of purchase it will take 15 to 16 years before an annuity escalating at 3 per cent per annum pays out more in total than a level annuity.

With an index-linked annuity your pension is fully inflation-protected but there is no certainty about how much income you will receive in the long run. Figures provided by Equitable Life show that a person who had taken out an index-linked annuity in 1987, for example, would still be receiving a lower pension than someone who had opted for a level annuity.

Investment-linked annuities are likely to be most attractive to those who can look forward to a long and healthy retirement, perhaps for part of their pension. People suffering ill-health should investigate special annuities which pay enhanced rates to people with reduced life expectancies. These are offered by Stalwart, Scottish Widows and the Pension Annuity Friendly Society.

Useful contacts: The Annuity Bureau 0171-620 4090, Annuity Direct 0171-684 5000, William Burrows Annuities 0171-628 3455. For up-to-date annuity rates see Ceefax page 260 or use the MoneyFacts Fax Service: 0336-400 236 (calls cost 50p per minute).

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Mortgage protection is one of the most straightforward and affordable types of life insurance cover. It's designed to pay off your mortgage if you die - and so protect the roof over your family's head.

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For instance, you could take a look at Zurich Municipal's mortgage protection policy. Part

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When Graham Powell, who has a career in the public sector, changed from an endowment to a repayment mortgage, he was required to take out mortgage protection. After receiving a quote from his mortgage lender, Graham decided to phone around for some alternative quotes. He was delighted to discover that he could save

nearly £90 a year if he took out the policy with Zurich Municipal. Over the 18-year period of cover, this certainly adds up to a significant saving.

Graham, from Corsham, Wiltshire, is married to Jane and has a young son, Tom. With a busy lifestyle, he found taking out a policy with Zurich Municipal extremely easy. He says: "The person on the end of the phone was very friendly and efficient, and the quote only took a few minutes. I was also very happy to discover I could have a 15% discount because of my job, which meant the premium was the cheapest one I found. I would certainly recommend Zurich Municipal to my friends and family."

From the tables you can see for yourself how economical it is to choose Zurich Municipal for mortgage protection.

Female, married, non-smoking public sector employee with 20 year mortgage protection cover

SUM ASSURED		
AGE	£50,000	£75,000
25	£5.15	£6.72
35	£6.55	£8.83
45	£12.21	£17.31

Male, married, non-smoking public sector employee with 20 year mortgage protection cover

SUM ASSURED		
AGE	£50,000	£75,000
25	£7.19	£9.78
35	£8.13	£11.19
45	£17.86	£25.78

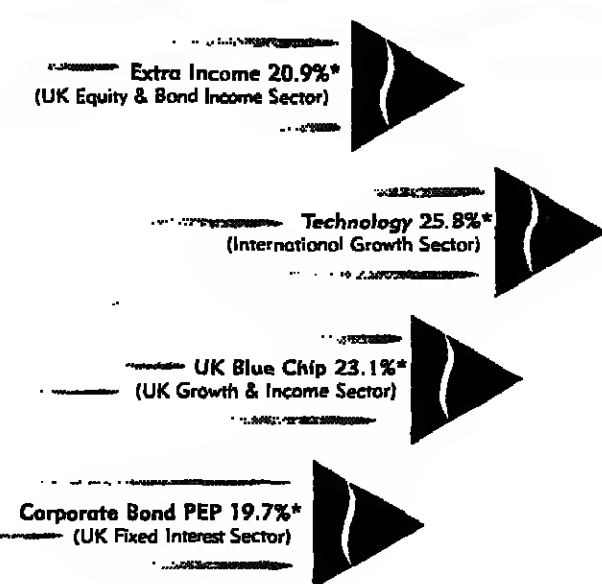
Examples shown include public sector discount. Monthly premiums are dependent on a number of factors and in particular are higher for males, smokers and older ages. Cover and premiums are subject to individual assessment.

Apart from mortgage protection, Zurich Municipal also offers term assurance, which provides straight life cover without any connection to your mortgage. They can also cover you for critical illness, so that you would receive a lump sum if one of a range of specific illnesses was diagnosed.

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5. Alliance & Leicester 1st Class Instant	7.50%
6. Barclays Bank Postal Savings	7.03%
7. Bank of Scotland Instant Access	7.00%
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Source: Moneyfacts (\*including bonus)

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**SETS APPEAL 54**  
Graham Searjeant seeks a better deal for small investors.

# WEEKEND MONEY

**SLEEPING BEAUTY 53**

What to do if you find long-forgotten savings accounts



A fun way to keep warm in the chill of dawn — but where did we leave our jackets? The fire company will be less than amused

## When the partying is over...

Clare Stewart has some sobering thoughts for bright young things

May balls and post-exam celebrations traditionally add up to a time of expense and excess for many students. Once you have put down your pen for the last time in the last exam, your academic worries may be over, but you still need to take care with your financial arrangements.

Splashing out on an outfit for a black tie and ballgown event can be a pricey business even if you hire rather than buy. But you could be stung for an even bigger bill unless you take care.

If you hire an outfit, the shop may offer an optional insurance cover. Moss Bros, for example, makes a standard charge of £2.95 per outfit which covers any accidental damage, but not loss of the garment or malicious damage.

So if during a night of dancing till dawn, you fling off your jacket, only to realise when the survivors' photograph is taken that you are quite cold and have no idea where you left it, you could be in for a sobering experience.

Accidental loss of hired outfits may not be covered by a student insurance policy. Endsleigh, the biggest student insurer, for example, does not cover hired outfits, precisely because they are not personal possessions. The hire shop may charge you a full replacement value or, if it has asked

for a deposit, you may forfeit the amount.

If the outfit has been bought, check that your personal insurance covers the value of the dress or dinner jacket. Policies may have a relatively low limit of cover for single items — about £300 is typical — which might be fine if you have kitted yourself out at the local charity shop, but not if you have paid rather more. For example, the complete black tie outfit starts from £350 at Ede & Ravenscroft in Cambridge, gents outfitters and gown suppliers to the university.

When the post-exam euphoria has died down, students should also look carefully at what their insurance covers if they are planning to leave possessions in rented accommodation or halls of residence during the summer vacation.

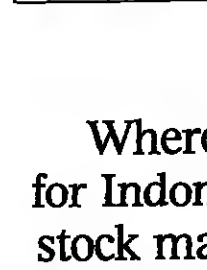
Typically possessions stored in locked college storage facilities or at the parents' house, are covered in the same way as in term-time but items left in rented accommodation, off campus, may only have limited cover during holidays.

Endsleigh says that cover for items left in an unoccupied house during holidays is limited to £200, while higher value items for which you can take out increased cover during the term will not be covered at all if they are left at unoccupied accommodation during the vacations.

## INSIDE



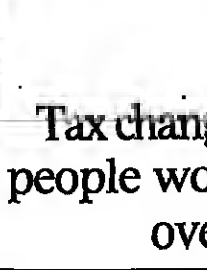
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**WEEKEND MONEY**  
is edited by Anne Ashworth

## Stay put in Russia

### Flemings advises

Russia became the latest country to seek help from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this week as it sank into turmoil on the back of fears about the budget deficit and the weakness of the rouble (Caroline Merrell writes).

The stock market fell dramatically and stabilised only when the Government increased interest rates by 150 per cent to keep off the currency speculators, and the International Monetary Fund hinted that it would be prepared to make a £410 million

loan available within the next few days. The fall in the Russian market was followed by other markets around the world, including the London Stock Exchange, and the emerging economies of Eastern Europe. Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic markets all dropped on news of

the problems being experienced in Moscow. Financial advisers and fund managers with clients holding money in Russian funds were advising them not to panic.

They pointed out that investments in emerging markets have to be viewed as long-term ventures, which have to

be held for between five and ten years at least. Flemings, the merchant bank, for instance, has one of the biggest exposures to Russia, and last year launched a unit trust which invests in Eastern Europe.

The bank believes that the problems in Russia are only temporary, and a bull market over the long term. Its main Russian fund has fallen by 32 per cent over the past year but over three years, the fund has risen by nearly 150 per cent.

Janet Bush, Page 30

## Carpetbaggers circle Nationwide

The building society movement could lose its biggest player if next month's vote on the future of the Nationwide goes against the staunchly pro-mutual board. The poll of the society's 4.5 million members is the second time in a year its position as the UK's biggest society has been threatened.

Last year the society defeated by three to one an attempt by Michael Hardern, a freelance butler, and four other pro-conversion candidates to become board members to force the society to convert to a bank. This year, however, the poll on conversion is almost certain to be much closer as the society now estimates that it could have as many as 600,000 "carpetbaggers", who have joined the society merely in anticipation of a windfall.

Members are also being asked whether the society should convert instead of being asked to elect the rather eccentric Mr Hardern on to the board of an institution that could have a market capitalisation of between £7 billion and £10 billion. This may push the vote in favour of conversion and £2,000 windfalls.

Nationwide claims that the vote will again go in favour of mutuality but this week at the annual building society gathering in Bournemouth it felt threatened enough to launch a series of measures underlining the advantages of remaining mutual. These included scrapping ATM charges and dropping standard charges for redeeming a mortgage, costing the society £12 million a year. If the society does lose the vote, conversion is almost inevitable or it may succumb to a predator interested in buying in to the banking sector, such as Lloyds TSB.

The loss of the Nationwide would be a severe blow to the building society sector which has been stridently defending its stance by offering its members lower mortgages and higher savings rates than its converted brethren.

Some analysts believe that a conversion by the Nationwide would lead to more flotations. Bradford & Bingley, for instance, could be a society to watch. Christopher Rodrigues, the group of chief executive, is on record as saying that

BETTER OFF WITH A MUTUAL ?		
Mortgage costs and savings rates compared		
	THE CONVERTS	Deposit interest
	Mortgage costs (six months)	
Halifax	£2,483.58	£89.87
Northern Rock	£2,530.44	£180.07
Alliance & Leicester	£2,475.09	£148.07
Woolwich	£2,483.58	£171.18
THE BUILDING SOCIETIES		
Portman	£2,413.67	£135.89
Nationwide	£2,362.02	£167.97
Bradford & Bingley	£2,399.40	£168.72
NEW ENTRANTS		
Direct Line	£2,292.08	£151.42
Sainsbury	£2,355.36	£182.50

Mortgage costs based on a £50,000 standard rate repayment mortgage (excluding Miras). Savings interest gained on £5,000 in a instant access account

being a mutual fits in with the business strategy of the society, at the moment. The B&B is watching the Nationwide vote with interest.

It is now eight months since the last building society floated, and a year since the Halifax made its stock market debut. Since then, some mutuals have undercut the mortgage rates offered by the converted banks and others have offered enhanced savings rates or bonus schemes. Meanwhile, some of the converted societies have widened margins, to grow more profits.

Of the former top 20 building societies, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Northern Rock have among the highest margins, while the mutuals Bradford & Bingley, Yorkshire, Coventry and Skipton have among the lowest.

Yet while building societies have been vocal in proclaiming the benefits of mutuals, closer examination of the figures shows that although mutuals do give better rates, the rewards for savers and borrowers may be marginal, especially when compared with windfall pay-

CAROLINE MERRELL AND SUSAN EMMETT

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SATURDAY MAY 30 1998

Eighteen journeys

The Prince of Wales - visiting Danny...

On road the Pr

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مكتبة من الأصيل

**FAITH**



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Why do clever women feel the need to sound cute?

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THE TIMES  
**WEEKEND**

SATURDAY MAY 30 1998

**Eighteen journeys, 32 engagements and 102 dignitaries: two uplifting days in the life of the Prince of Wales**



The Prince of Wales visiting Danby on the North Yorkshire moors where he was received with obvious affection. He is cheerful and informal and, said one photographer, "unlike some of his family he always smiles"

**On the road with the Prince**



Brian MacArthur trying to keep up with the Prince

**Brian MacArthur admires the stamina of the heir to the throne on a hectic tour of Yorkshire**

The Prince of Wales had already had a hard day when he arrived at a deserted Euston Station at midnight and boarded the Royal Train, its dark-brown livery gleaming under the floodlights behind a police cordon. The day had started at Highgrove with a near-disaster. The Prince had intended to fly to London for the Order of the Bath service at Westminster Abbey led by the Queen, but his helicopter was unable to land because of fog. So he had been driven at full pelt up the M4 and had arrived late. He had then visited two of the charities he supports which raise money from industry for the voluntary sector — the Kids Company in South London, where he met some of the young people it helps, and Gifts-in-Kind UK where he met the donors. He had dined at the Café Royal as a guest of the Marketing Group of Great Britain. Now he was starting an overnight journey to Yorkshire for a two-day visit to the North Yorkshire Moors and the

Continued on page 3

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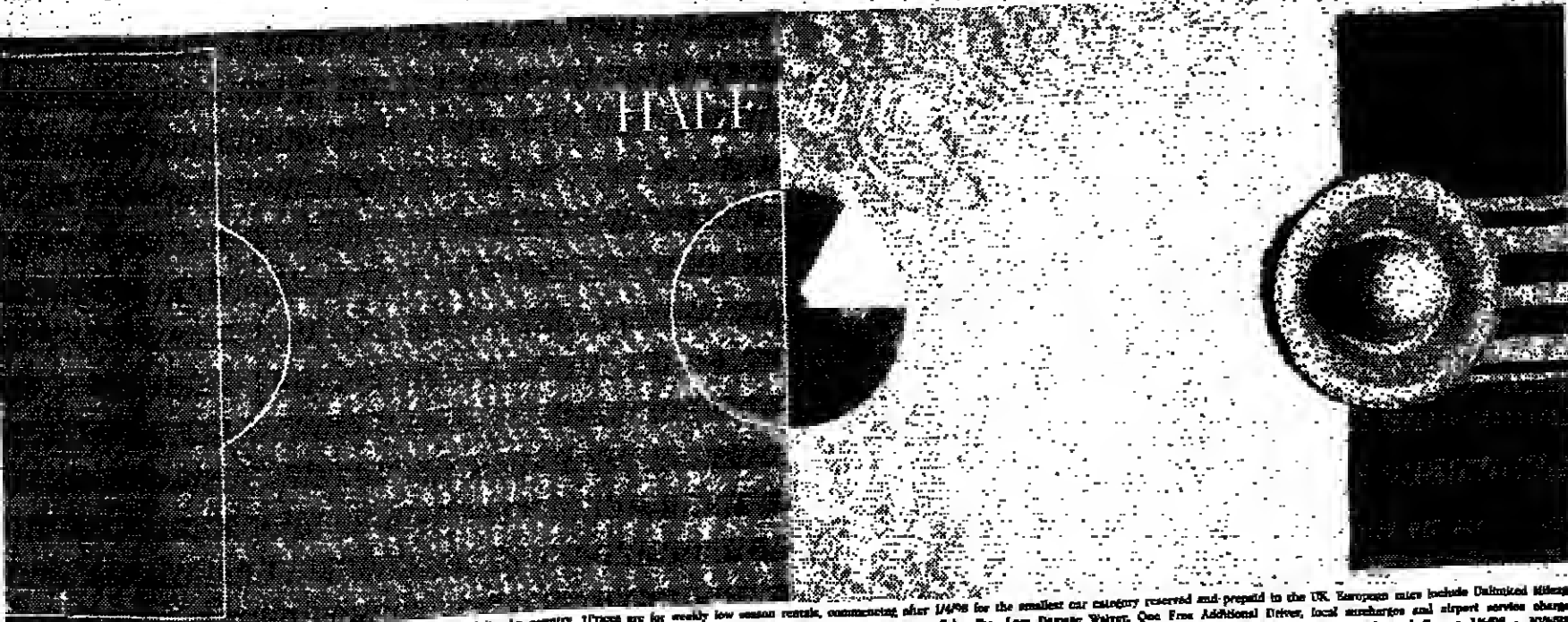
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Eric Lomax, who was tortured by the Japanese, says it needs someone brave to settle the problem

# 'The hating has to stop'

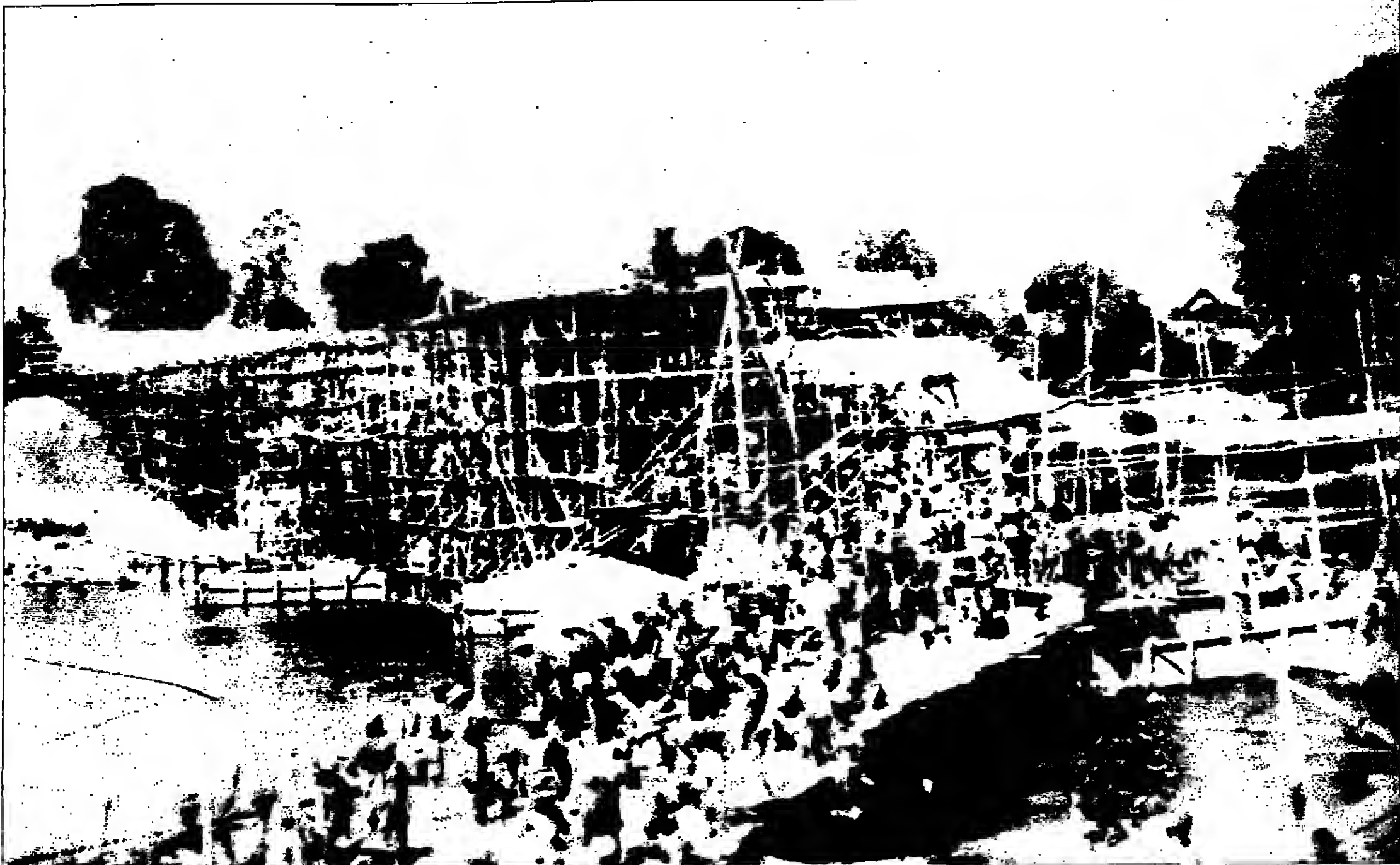
When Captain Komai, Imperial Japanese Army, broke my arms in Kanchanaburi, Siam, in 1943 I thought the end of the world had come. There was even worse, much worse, to follow. Now, 54 years later, although the nightmares and flashbacks continue, I accepted an invitation to have dinner in the same room as the Emperor and Empress of Japan. Had anyone suggested the idea in 1943 I would have dismissed it as quite mad.

This has been the Emperor's week, there can be no doubt about that. Millions of words have been printed, millions have been spoken about Japan, the United Kingdom and the surviving former Far East prisoners of war. It will be a long time before we see another time like it. Yet it is widely believed that the matter of former Far East PoWs is the greatest obstacle preventing the restoration of good relations between Japan and the United Kingdom.

The difficulty was not resolved this week and we are left with a problem. The difficulty is a three-cornered one which makes it very awkward. The three participants are former Far East PoWs in the United Kingdom, the British Government and the Government of Japan. All three are formidable. But if the Irish state of near warfare could be solved, as appears to be the case, the Anglo-Japanese can be overcome. It will, however, take a long time.

The prospect of dealing satisfactorily with it is beginning to look more realistic than for a long time. I am optimistic but we must think about it in terms of years rather than months. Japan and Britain were allies for many years until the introduction of military government in the 1930s left Japan with few, if any, friends internationally.

Now that more than half a century has passed since the end of the Second World War, reconciliation is a logical and reasonable expectation, but it is still awaited. We can only describe the history of our Far East PoWs since 1945 as tragic. It is likely that about 10,000 former Far East PoWs survive in the United Kingdom, but it is difficult to communicate



Eric Lomax and other Allied prisoners of war, worked on the Burma-Siam "Death Railway". When he and fellow officers were found trying to make a radio, they were savagely beaten

with them. There are no central records but it is clear that most are over 80. If we include children, grandchildren and other relatives, we find that there are a surprising number of "interested parties" but there has never been any kind of support group for former PoWs and their families. From my own investigations it seems that the matter

of the general welfare of former Far East PoWs is becoming steadily worse as a direct result of their experiences more than 50 years ago and a serious social problem is developing. It is clear that many PoWs have died in conditions of physical and mental distress since 1945. Many Far East PoWs have never told their families about their experiences. Much domestic difficulty has arisen from this silence. Many PoWs have suffered long-term psychological damage, sometimes of a serious nature.

Another curiosity is that it is almost impossible for former Far East PoWs to receive proper psychiatric treatment within the National Health Service. The director and the dedicated staff at the Independent Medical Foundation for

the Care of Victims of Torture do their best but, while every Far East PoW was grossly ill-treated, very few were deliberately tortured. Much publicity has been given in recent times to a possible claim by former Far East PoWs for compensation against the Government of Japan. Little has been written about the origin of this. In fact the claim dates from about 1948 when a number of people, including myself, initiated a claim against the British Government which very smartly turned it down.

Even now I do not know how this claim was later diverted towards the Japanese Government. This change of target was a big mistake. For former servicemen to make a claim against the British Government was, and still is, a reasonable matter. For them to make a claim directly against the Japanese Government or any other foreign government is quite pointless and is most unreasonable. If anyone makes a claim against the Japanese Government it should be the British Government and not a group of private individuals.

For a number of reasons, including the absence of a national Far East PoW association, it is difficult to get a collective view of PoW opinions on anything. As far as I can see, however, the number of PoWs who are seriously interested in pursuing a compensation claim is quite small. Every PoW would obviously accept a substantial payment if it came along, but there are other matters of greater interest.

Most former Far East PoWs, incidentally, do not support demonstrations or bad behaviour towards Japanese visitors, especially when they are the Queen's guests. This week's agitators probably represent only 2 per cent of the surviving PoW population. The second participant, the British Government, has not done too well lately. In fact the former Far East PoWs have been cruelly smacked down. As a group, the surviving PoWs are probably in a weaker position today than at any time since the end of the war. Presumably there are more prospective votes in improving Anglo-Japanese trade in the future than in looking after the interests of ex-servicemen.

Indeed, the official attitude seems to be that with the passage of time there will be no Far East PoWs left and that the problem will go away. But even a small number of descendants can be vociferous. Then there is the Government of Japan. Several apologies, of a sort, have been made about its wartime behaviour but, as far as I know, these have been personal rather than official. All are regarded as inadequate by former PoWs, who want a firm and comprehensive apology from



Eric Lomax met one of his former tormentors in the 1980s and forgave him

Eric Lomax was a 23-year-old second lieutenant in the Royal Signals when he was captured by the Japanese in the fall of Singapore in 1941. He was sent from the Changi POW camp to the jungle on the Burmese border to work on the "Death Railway". He and fellow officers scrounged materials to build a radio receiver. When this was discovered, the British officers were repeatedly beaten and tortured. They were forced to stand for hours in the burning sun. In one episode Mr Lomax was beaten with pickaxe-handles. His head was stamped on, his teeth smashed, his arms, shoulder and pelvis were broken. He was subjected to days of interrogation and torture: his head was held under water until he nearly drowned; a hose was used to force water into his mouth and lungs and he was repeatedly threatened with death.

Eventually the British officers were sentenced by a Japanese court martial to imprisonment. Mr Lomax survived the horrors of a Singapore prison, but he has never fully recovered. He describes in *The Railway Man* (Jonathan Cape, £6.99), his memoir of his experiences, how in the 1980s he visited Japan; met one of his former torturers and forgave him. "I had proved for myself," he wrote, "that remembering is not enough if it simply hardens the hate."

protection for the interests of former Far East PoWs. If this is the case what, if anything, is our own Government doing towards reconciliation? Another awkward question: how will we recognise reconciliation when it arrives? Present attempts at reconciliation are merely tinkering with the problem. What is required now is for someone of exceptional diplomatic competence, international acceptance and stature to come forward and take charge of the situation. But there is an enormous gap to be bridged and then finally closed. Who will do this? In the meantime, to quote the last line of *The Railway Man*: "Sometime the hating has to stop." There is no alternative.

Japan for Japanese aggression in general and for the treatment of prisoners in particular. But how do we define an acceptable and satisfactory apology, and would it mean anything or would it just be words with no substance? Much education about modern history is still required in Japan. How can one deal with a government which has senior officers who still maintain that Nanking never happened, and how many Japanese people really know how PoWs were treated?

The atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and on Nagasaki on August 9, bringing the war to an immediate end. Without these bombs not one PoW would have survived. The present Emperor would not have been able to visit Britain as a guest this week, and I would not be celebrating my 74th birthday today. It is probable that all three parties - that is, the surviving PoWs, the British Government and the Japanese Government - want reconciliation, indeed there is an alternative. Does anyone really want to continue the war indefinitely and perhaps repeat the manner of the Battle of the Boyne?

Reconciliation is nevertheless still a long way away. What should we do next? The first thing is to decide what we mean by reconciliation - and, further, between whom? Probably we mean reconciliation between governments with

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PEOPLE who write because I present consumer programming...  
Dyson myself is the only reason I...  
not begun to stock...  
went back in January...  
bags for an...  
during sales...  
for hours because...  
lining up was...  
As I quickly...  
would probably...  
visit Peter Jones...  
basement...  
their Dyson...  
back over one...  
Miele bags...



All in an hour's work...

Continued from page 1  
Dales. It is an area which...  
loves and which...  
visits for relaxing...  
There was to be...  
relaxation on this...  
The more one...  
Prince in action...  
realises that the...  
description of his...  
actor or performer...  
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fluff a line. When...  
dinner, he cannot...  
there, he has to...  
"perform" as Prince...  
hair to the three...  
means that often he...  
eat. So as his staff...  
separate compartment...  
first action on board...  
was to order a...  
and sandwiches.  
The royal...  
vokes companions...  
Royal Yacht...  
The train is...  
is certainly not...

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كندا من الأصا



هكذا من الأصل

# Anne Robinson



● PEOPLE quite wrongly assume, because I present a television consumer programme, I have an encyclopaedic knowledge of white goods. "How lovely to see you," said Lord Runcie when we arrived for his splendid 75th birthday party last year. "Watch out for my brother-in-law. He'll want to corner you about his Hotpoint."

At the moment it's Dyson I keep getting asked about. In fairness, the only reason I don't own a Dyson myself is that when I last bought a vacuum cleaner they had not begun to stock them in Peter Jones. And the man there recommended a Miele. Then, when I went back in January to get more bags for my Miele, admittedly during sales time, I had to queue for hours because everyone else lining up was buying a Dyson.

As I quickly worked out, they would probably never ever have to visit Peter Jones's nice but boring basement again until they replaced their Dyson. Whereas I will be back over and over to buy my Miele bags, which have a compli-

ated code I always think I'll remember when I leave home but usually forget.

All in all a far more powerful argument in favour of a Dyson than the current commercial dispute between it and Miele over which picks up the most dirt.

● THE interesting point about featuring Dyson on *Watchdog* is that it defies all laws of consumer gravity.

The reason we targeted the bagless cleaners originally was because, astonishingly, nowhere in the sales literature was there any guidance about which floor coverings were best served by a cylinder Dyson as opposed to an upright Dyson. (There is now.)

Normally *Watchdog* exposing such a shortcoming would be welcomed. Instead we got abusive phone calls and e-mails.

I am now aware that people talk about "my Dyson" like they talk about their cat or their favourite grandchild.

This has a lot to do with the ooh-

ah factor of the cleaner's wash-buckling inventor James Dyson. He tends to make sensible middle-aged women go soft in the head. Also, he always turns up to be interviewed wearing the same fetching lilac cashmere sweater. Indeed I don't think on or off screen I have ever seen him wearing anything but his lilac cashmere job. But since *The Sunday Times* Rich List put him down for £400 million I suppose it's possible he has two.

● THE EDITOR of the *New Statesman* has changed again. The last one resigned to spend more time with his wife. The new one, Peter Wilby, obviously determined to be equally pro-women, has appointed Cristina Odone, the former Editor of the *Catholic Herald* (Catholic Spice) as his deputy.

"Peter is so sweet, a little bunny, I really like him. We'll be a strong team like yin and yang," says Ms Odone. Which makes one a) wish

clever women didn't feel the need to sound cute and b) think it was all much more civilised when tough brutes were in charge. Like the legendary Clifford Sharp who reigned in the Twenties. And who is described by Jeremy Lewis in his enchanting biography of Cyril Connolly as "a difficult, lonely man who hated uncertainty, cherished his prejudices (he particularly disliked Indians, the French, birth control and, Margaret Kennedy

excepted, lady novelists), dreaded sentimentality and could only praise staff behind their backs. And who always wrote reviews with a pint of whisky at his elbow".

I don't think Ms Odone would have found him very yinny.

● LUCIEN FREUD, whose exhibition at the Tate starts next week, hasn't spoken to his brother Clement for decades. The split, according to last Saturday's *Times*, goes back to childhood when the two raced each other to Green Park. Clement was leading until Lucien shouted "stop thief!" and his brother was held up by a passerby. This might well account for the younger Freud's competitive gule.

He and I took part in the famous 1969 *Daily Mail* Transatlantic Air Race. He a serious entry, me a miniskirted young reporter. The winner (our category was Aer Lingus via Shannon) had to make the journey between the Post Office Tower in London and the top of the Empire State in New York in the shortest possible time. Cle, who

had invested a considerable sum with the bookies, needed victory to clean up. But by the bottom of the Empire State, where he had arrived by siren-blasting ambulance, he was seconds behind his equally determined rivals, a couple of rather joyless travel agents called the Lord brothers. The pair scrambled into the nearest lift, where another passenger proceeded to press every button to the top floor. In fact, whichever lift the brothers had got into they would have found a person waiting to press all the other buttons. Freud won.

● THE TOURISTS must drive you mad. I remark to the lovely Jane Fyson at my favourite antique haunt in Burford this week, as I watched legions of them tramping gracelessly around her china and furniture. She says the worst bit is not that they don't buy. But that they ask the same three questions: Is there an upstairs? (No); Can my kiddie use your toilet? (No); Where's Ronnie Barker's shop? (Chipping Norton).



All in an hour's work the Prince arrives at Glaisdale Station in Yorkshire to a warm welcome. Almost the whole town turned out to see him. A splendid photo opportunity at the medieval Beggar's Bridge and a brisk tour of a farm

Continued from page 1

Dales. It is an area which he loves and which he frequently visits for relaxing weekends. There was to be hardly any relaxation on this journey.

The more one sees the Prince in action, the more one realises that the most telling description of his work is as an actor or performer. He is on stage throughout his public duties and cannot afford to fluff a line. When he goes to a dinner, he cannot just sit there, he has to talk — to "perform" as Prince of Wales, heir to the throne — which means that often he cannot eat. So as his staff relaxed in a separate compartment, his first action on board the train was to order a baked potato and sandwiches.

The royal train often provokes comparisons with the Royal Yacht. They are unfair. The train is comfortable but it is certainly not palatial. There

are proper bathrooms, the beds are bigger than on a sleeper and there are comfortable sitting rooms, but that is all — and the train is owned by the Americans who bought the English, Welsh and Scottish Railway Company.

I had been invited to observe the Prince in action, as a member of his party, by Mark Bolland, his deputy private secretary, and offered a rare insight into a royal visit and the work and personality of the Prince. "Another media charm offensive," muttered a friend who is no fan but who probably hit the target.

Since St James's Palace got a new team led by Stephen Lamport, the Prince's private secretary (from the Foreign Office), and Bolland (from the Press Complaints Commission), the Prince's image has been transformed. They have opened doors and swept away the stuffiness once associated

with Buckingham Palace. They are wisely targeting regional as well as national newspapers. On this trip the *Yorkshire Post* — Yorkshire's national newspaper — was also observing the Prince at close hand. So far as I was concerned, the offensive worked. I was left full of admiration for the Prince's dedication to duty, the sheer hard work of a gruelling job.

After six hours' sleep and still dressed informally without a tie, he started work at 8.15am over a working breakfast, helping himself to muesli and milk as the rail company boss explained how the train could be more cost-efficient. He then returned to his compartment to read his briefings and to study an 11-page schedule that was exhausting even to read.

Shortly after 9.15am, the Prince started his official day on stage. First the suits — the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Marcus Worsley and Lady Worsley, the mayor of Scarborough, the chief constable of North Yorkshire, the chairman of the National Park Authority, the sales manager of Regional Railways North East, the chairman of Glaisdale Parish Council and then the workers. He shook hands with each and chatted briefly to them.

Then there were the people. What the schedule had not included were the crowds. It seemed as though every resident of Glaisdale had flocked to see the Prince — at every stop over the next two days he was greeted by enthusiastic crowds and children waving Union Jacks. They, too, expect an audience with the Prince and he obliges.

As I followed him for two days, he was introduced to 102 dignitaries at 32 engagements which involved two journeys by train, eight by car and eight by helicopter. He made three speeches. He stood on his feet for most of 17 hours. He

walked with his stick round farms and woods and across Wharfedale. He sat down rarely, ate little and he did not drink (apart from a single malt whisky each day on visits to local pubs). Even during the short interludes in the car or helicopter, he was reading his briefs, being briefed or annotating his speeches.

The object of this visit was to show support for the men and women working to eke out a rural living from farming or small businesses. They are subjects of deep interest to the Prince, who is himself a farmer and he was quickly engrossed in conversation with every farmer he met.

Yet the range of subjects he was required to discuss and show an interest in was much wider than farming. They included conservation, fishing, otters, the state of rivers, forestry, woodland regeneration, quarrying, barn conversions, youth unemployment, rural crime, gamekeeping and

access to the moors for the disabled.

The Prince tries to visit every region of Britain at least once a year. The idea of a visit to North Yorkshire's two national parks had been proposed to Sir Marcus a year ago and a date had been pencilled in the Prince's diary. Sir Marcus is a remarkably unsuffy and unponpous example of the species, a former Tory MP for Keighley and Chelsea who still has the common touch.

He drew up a plan for the visit with the chairmen and officers of the two parks, ensuring there were no overlapping engagements and that every aspect of the life of the parks was covered. Once the plan was accepted, it was the turn of Bolland, Sandy Henney, the Prince's press secretary, and Inspector Peter Brown, his personal protection officer. They walked or drove every mile of the route (in pouring rain), adding final touches to the schedule.

They agreed that the Prince would discuss rural crime in

the informal surroundings of Danby's village pub, The Duke of Wellington, and that a boy who had written the Prince a fan letter should meet him. They added a visit to Yorkshire Flowerpots near Hawes to draw attention to the difficulties of making a living in the Dales. Gabriel Nichols, its proprietor, makes half the strawberry pots sold in Britain but the strong pound has destroyed his export trade to Japan and America.

Support arrangements are also meticulously planned. Apart from Bolland and Brown, the Prince was accompanied by his deputy press secretary, two chauffeurs driving his specially equipped Vauxhalls, two helicopter pilots, two valets and two teams of three protection officers.

As an example of that teamwork in action, study the picture that appeared on the front of the *Yorkshire Post*. I watched as Harris suddenly realised what a good picture it would make if the Prince appeared on the medieval Beggar's Bridge. The bridge was cleared, the photographers were warned and Bolland ushered the Prince towards this splendid photo-opportunity.

A close observer of the Prince cannot but be impressed by his courtesy, his affability, his passions and enthusiasms but, above all, by how hard he works. From the moment he goes on duty he is public property, a fate he willingly accepts. The crowds want him to shake their hands, pose for photographs, get him to sign their autograph books.

Yet during the two days I observed him, the Prince remained unfailingly cheerful and interested, always with something to say, however banal or intrusive the inquiries. He is a public servant, that is his job — and a handshake from the Prince, as

## 'His passion is stirred by any mention of the Millennium Dome or changes to Radio 4'

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A possible answer is that the numbers reflect the number of letters in each word of the question.





Harry Hill's convenience store, which he pops in to for a quick costume change

# Just what the good doctor ordered

**L**itering in the Party Superstore, Clapham Junction, a monster of a shop worthy of its own hyperbole, presents me with an unexpected opportunity for a spot of social anthropology fieldwork on that most enigmatic of species, the naughty schoolboy. As I await the arrival of Harry Hill, Best New Comedy award winner 1997, I observe the large succession of inky, eager-eyed practical jokers in school blazers scanning the cabinets for the newest and most disgusting stink bombs.

Then in walks the naughtiest boy of all, Harry Hill, yellow shirt collar billowing, breast pocket brimming with Eius iustitiae muller wide conkers on bits of knotted string. It is obvious that this is a place where he instinctively feels at home.

A beam of recognition lights up his features as he spots first the squirt rings, next the Katy Krap and then the Big Belch Powder — all the paraphernalia of a well-spent childhood, on which he too wasted all his pocket money. "Wasted?" At this, Harry Hill becomes indignant. "It's not a waste! It's good value! One packet of itching powder could last you three or four weeks!"

The comic is in his element. "There it is! The snapping chewing gum packet. After all these years it's still a classic. I loved that joke because the

**Judy Goodkin goes to the Party Superstore to find out what makes Harry Hill laugh**

## my favourite shop

adults never saw it coming. You can't fool boys because they are constantly aware; they know that the writing on the packet is a clever distortion of the Wrigley's logo. Adults don't pay attention. Adults never learn!"

The Party Superstore is to Harry Hill what the corner shop is to the rest of us: a convenience store. Should the need arise, Hill is happiest knowing that there is a trick or a fancy dress costume just a step away.

In the two years since he moved here, he has come to regard the proprietor Duncan Mundell as an ally. "It's a bit of luck living so close to a joke shop. If there's something I need when I'm preparing a new show, I ring Duncan and he'll get it for me."

There are 2,500 fancy dress costumes here, a further 2,500 in Duncan's Sutton branch, making it easy for Hill to

secure one of the furry animal outfits that are a feature of his repertoire. So, does Hill keep a well-stocked dressing-up box? "I do have a few costumes. There is the monkey suit I bought for £60. I once frightened my wife in it and it's a good one if you have guests."

For Hill, the outfit helps in playing the part. But perhaps it matters more to him than other performers because, if things had gone differently, he might be wearing a different uniform altogether. Hill, 35, aka Dr Matthew Hall, was a junior hospital doctor when he threw off that serious persona for a life in comedy. Had he not made that remarkable volte-face, chances are he would be shining a torch into a throat today instead of pulling faces at me in a joke shop.

"It wasn't the easiest decision to make. Although people were surprised, none of the professors was that bothered. Junior doctors are two-a-penny and I wasn't a high-flyer, so



Comedian Harry Hill, a former doctor, swapped his white coat for a rack of fancy dress costumes and has never looked back

no one tried to talk me out of it."

The compensations have been plentiful. "Next month I appear on *The Sooty Show*, which is great because I used to watch it myself and I always liked Sooty because he was the gunner, the one in charge."

While he awaits that treat, he is writing a show for Channel 4 "in which pugs feature quite heavily."

His career move pleases him because it is not "nine to five, safe, secure or loaded with a sense of inevitability." The world of comedy, according to Hill, is a sort of senior school common room: the prefects (Jo Brand, Mark Lamarr) above him, new boys coming up

from below. Inside that common room, he is free to muse on such pressing problems as the wider dissemination of the joke shop. "There should be one on every street corner. People should dress up more and be encouraged to try other images."

And if Harry Hill continues to spin these flippant webs of fantasy, it is because, having witnessed the alternatives crammed between the walls of the hospital ward, he has come to believe that you might as well have a laugh before you die. "That's pretty much my philosophy."

## There should be a joke shop on every corner

● *Harry Hill is performing his show, First Class Scamp, at the Palladium (0171-494 5020) tomorrow at 5.30 and 8pm.*

● *The Party Superstore, 268 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1JL (0171-424 2240), is open Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm (Thurs until 7pm); Sun, 10.30am-4.30pm.*

## GADGETS

OMEGA's Speedmaster Professional X-33 is the watch to wear when you're off to the Mir space station or generally find yourself lost in space. It is, apparently, considered *de rigueur* by fashion-conscious astronauts everywhere.

And if you demand a timepiece that works under conditions of zero gravity in temperatures ranging from -18C to 93C, this is the watch for you. Made from titanium, it has two time displays (Mission Time and Universal Time), 80-decibel alarm function, chronograph, countdown and push-button light display.

To me, its best feature is the dazzlingly efficient lumi-



Omega's Speedmaster

fact, an ugly £1,575 watch. More practical is Lexon's Jet Line watch — a narrow analogue watch in a sleek, tin casing with a slim black leather strap and two small faces which can be set independently, so the top face could be set to display GMT while the other shows local time elsewhere.

But as the watch is just 2cm across it may not suit larger wrists and, when left on a bedside table, the ticking is noticeably loud.

**TIM WAPSHOTT**

● *Speedmaster Professional X-33, £1,575, from Omega (01703 648000). Jet Line watch, £59.95, inc P&P, from Lexon (01372 376554).*



RIGHT: The Gurnmetal Folding magazine rack (37587), £39.95 (p&p £2.95), available by mail order from McCord (0870 908 7020) has two compartments and a handle for moving it about

LEFT: Light and modern, the blue plastic magazine rack, £32, from Heals (0171-636 1666) or £29.95 from The Holding Company (0171-352 1600), is slimline and fits easily against the wall



ABOVE: In pale plywood, the Oval Natural magazine rack, £28, designed by But for Purves & Purves (0171-880 8223) is light but strong

# Rack 'em right

## MAGAZINE RACKS

**O**ur obsession with printed material is on the increase. A recent survey by *Media Week* found that the number of people buying home interiors magazines alone has more than doubled since 1992.

Which, in most houses, translates into piles of titles lying around. Unless, of course, you are organised enough to own a magazine rack or cool enough to realise that as far as home accessories go they are as hip as a Tom Dixon chair. The latest designs are being marketed as practical mini-storage systems, and as subtle interior accessories which reduce the clutter on your minimalist coffee table and show off just how up-to-date and well-read you are. The new wave of magazine racks come in a range of contemporary materials from Perspex and plastic to birch, fake fur and chrome to match any interior.

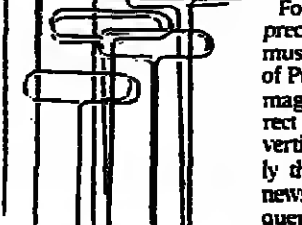
For those who treat their glossies like precious books, magazine racks are a must. According to Andrew Purves, owner of Purves & Purves (0171-880 8223), a good magazine rack will keep titles in the correct order and pristine. "Keep the spine vertical," he says. "If it is stacked carelessly then the pages will curl." For storing newspapers, he suggests plastic or lacquer. Purves's favourite model, the Claudia Evangelista, £59, was designed by Philippe Starck two years ago. "The centrefolds are draped over plastic struts," he explains.



LEFT: Italian designer Fornasetti makes one-off magazine racks for a cool £800 a pop. This one depicts a wooden bookshelf stacked with old world tomes. Available from The General Trading Company (0171-730 0411)

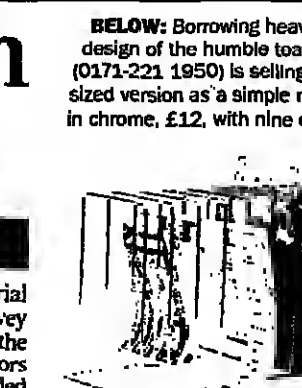


ABOVE: Made of chrome, the Wireworks Forest magazine rack, £21.50, is divided into six compartments and has an extended handle for manoeuvrability. From Heals (as before)



LEFT: A minimal, clean design, the birch wooden magazine rack (29821), £19.99 (p&p £2.95), comes flat-packed in two pieces and slots together easily. Sturdy enough to handle oversized summer fashion magazines. Mail order from McCord (as before)

MARY ANN PERCY



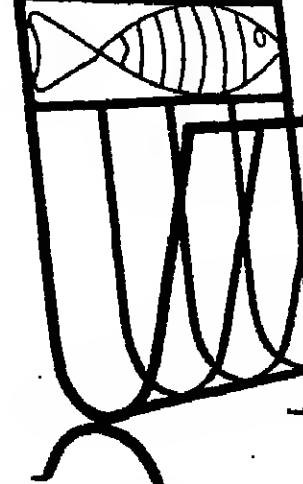
BELOW: The Revisero magazine rack, £35, from Bhs (0171-262 3288) is black and silver with curly wrought iron feet and a woven wire frame



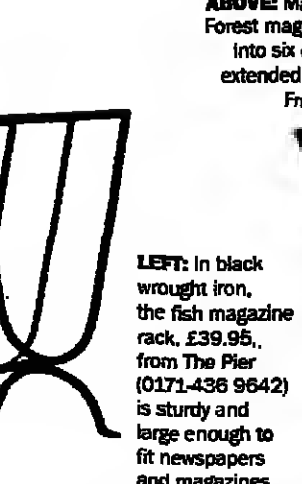
CLAUDIA EVANGELISTA magazine and newspaper holder, £59, in yellow, earth, grey and blue plastic, from Purves & Purves (as before)



ABOVE: The General Trading Company (as before) has a wooden magazine rack painted in glossy gold or silver, £52. It has two compartments and a carved handle



LEFT: In black wrought iron, the fish magazine rack, £39.95, from The Pier (0171-436 9642) is sturdy and large enough to fit newspapers and magazines together



ABOVE: The Fur Rolling magazine rack, £39.95, from The Holding Company (as before) has a soft leopard-print bag held up by a wooden trolley with plastic wheels



LEFT: The stylish Jelly magazine rack, £160, from The Conian Shop (0171-589 7401) is cleverly fashioned from a single sheet of super-tacky clear Perspex

Photographs by Des Jensen

## SHOP WATCH

□ Purves & Purves does not just sell contemporary furniture. It is passionately proactive about showcasing modern designers. Its exhibition, *An Englishman at Home*, highlights British manufactured furniture, including Matthew Hilton, Inlata and Babylon Design. From May 28 to June 20 at 80-81 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-880 8223).

□ Cape to Cairo imports African-made furniture — solid refectionary tables and blanket boxes — made from the 19th-century teak sleepers laid for Cecil Rhodes's planned railway to Cairo. By appointment, call 0181-772 9551.



Little Badgers: child friendly

□ Little Badgers children's clothes summer mail-order catalogue is out. Ballet cardies, £30, motif T-shirts, £12, and group-up football jumpers in black and white. Orderline: 0171-498 4707.

□ Crabtree & Evelyn's City of London branch is targeting time-pressed city slickers with its new service: it will deliver a gift-wrapped present within London the same day, or anywhere in the UK in three days: 1 Poultry Lane, London EC4 (0171-605 7036 for orders).

□ UPDATE: Trowbridge Gallery, specialist in reproduction prints, is showing Busson's 18th-century natural history prints at 555 King's Road, London SW6, during June (0171-871 8733).

JUDITH WILSON

THE TIMES WEEKEND

# The black

Bond Street has become the world's hottest street, says Nick Foulkes

**T**he street has become the world's hottest street, says Nick Foulkes. Bond Street has become the world's hottest street, says Nick Foulkes. Bond Street has become the world's hottest street, says Nick Foulkes.

**A**nd those who are able to afford the slug of pound...

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# The best - in black and white

**Bond Street has become the world's hottest street, says Nick Foulkes**

The world of luxury has a new litmus test. Forget Fifth Avenue, Rodeo Drive, the Croisette or the Avenue Montaigne; if it doesn't have a shop on Bond Street it is not a luxury brand.

As an address, Bond Street has always lent an air of sedate dignity to commercial endeavour but now, as the century draws to a close, it is more fashionable and downright glamorous than at any point in its eventful history. In the global retail village that is planet Earth, Bond Street is the world's shop window.

David Duncan Smith, managing director of Louis Vuitton, says: "Bond Street has always been recognised as an address a company would want on its letterhead, but it didn't mean the store was profit making. Now the picture has changed out of all recognition."

Louis Vuitton is just one of an armada of flagship stores to open on Bond Street in the past couple of years. Prada, Ralph Lauren, Versace and Armani have all sprung up on the Bond Street strip.

And, what's more, the previously unfashionable Oxford Street end of New Bond Street has benefited, with younger brands such as Tommy Hilfinger, Guess and Versace Jeans Couture opening where rents are cheaper.

Rents are most expensive on the stretch between Royal Arcade and Grafton Street, where luxury moguls pay about £325 a square foot. Compared to that, the £175 to £200 being asked per square foot between Brook Street and Oxford Street must seem a positive steal.

And those brands unable or unwilling to slug it out on a pound-per-square-foot basis are taking sites in side streets such as Conduit Street. Names on, or soon to be on, Conduit Street include Berluti, Moschino, Krizia, Yamamoto and Vivienne Westwood.

Bond Street's revival can, to a degree, be pinned to London's present status as the fashion, design and gastronomy capital of the world: both *Vogue* and the American magazine *Town & Country* celebrate booming Britain in their June editions.

It is not only the "cool Britannia" factor that sets Bond Street apart from its foreign rivals. "Bond Street has an intimacy that few fashion streets in the world can compete with," Mr Duncan Smith says. "You can walk up Bond Street, criss-crossing it easily, you don't have to cross a boulevard with traffic screaming in all directions."

And, unlike some of its Continental and American rivals, which are set in exclusive areas housing only boutiques and luxury stores, Bond Street is surrounded by good-quality department stores and high-street labels such as Warehouse, Jigsaw, Next and Reiss. The street may no longer sell the same items it did in the 18th century ("Balsamick Essence, with several other Cosmetics", wash balls and aniseed) or house such strange exhibits as the embalmed head of Oliver Cromwell, but it has become the street to shop in.



TOP LEFT: White cotton-knit twin set, £620; A-line skirt, £390; black leather case, £350; mules, £180, Louis Vuitton, 17-18 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-399 4050); Opaque tights, £2.50, Jonathan Aston (0116-296 2368)

TOP RIGHT: Black dress, £39.99, Next, mail order (0345 100600); Tights, as before

ABOVE: Black slash-front stretch top, £25, Warehouse, branches nationwide (0171-278 3491)

RIGHT: Black and white graffiti jacket, £330; matching trousers, £155; black grosgrain court shoes, £230, Moschino, 29-29 Conduit Street, W1 (0171-318 0555)

FAR RIGHT: White linen pouch-pocket top, £35; leather and Perspex shoulder bag, £200, Miu Miu, 123 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-409 0900)

**THE BEST OF BOND ST**

Designers: Versace, 34-36 Old Bond Street (0171-496 1862); Louis Vuitton, 17-18 New Bond Street (0171-399 4050); Gucci, 32 Old Bond Street (0171-629 2716); Donna Karan, 19 New Bond Street (0171-486 3100); Loewe, 130 New Bond Street (0171-493 3914); Diffusion: Emporio Armani, 112a Bond Street (0171-491 8080); Cofieldia Giorgio Armani, 43 New Bond Street (0171-491 8888); Versace Jeans Couture, 119-115 New Bond Street (0171-365 2700); DKNY, 27 Old Bond Street (0171-493 8089)

Jewels: Cartier, 175-176 New Bond Street (0171-493 6982); Asprey, 165 New Bond Street (0171-493 6767); Bvlgari, 172 New Bond Street (0171-672 9969)

Bags: Hermès, 155 New Bond Street (0171-499 8858); Tanneer Krolle, 38 Old Bond Street (0171-491 2243)

Photographs by ANNA STEVENSON  
Hair by Damien Carney for Andrew Jose Salon (0171-323 4675); Make-up by Firyal using Clinique; Model: Liberty; Styling by Amandip Uppal



ABOVE: White cotton V-neck T-shirt, £16; black leather pencil skirt, £125; black leather criss-cross wedge sandals, £59; black leather shoulder bag, £35, Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street, W1. White opaque tights, £2.50, Jonathan Aston, department stores nationwide (0116-296 2368)



**THREE OF A KIND**

For the plain but classic accessory to complement a stylish handbag, try a monochrome purse - available in department stores and high-street chains on Bond Street. Here are three of the best. LISA GRAINGER

ABOVE: White leather purse with embroidered logo, £225, Chanel, 26 Old Bond Street (0171-493 5040). TOP LEFT: Black leather weave purse, £89, Deamo, Fenwicks, 63 Old Bond Street (0171-629 9161). TOP RIGHT: Black leather mini-purse, £35, Tanneer Krolle, 38 Old Bond Street (0171-491 2243); Harolds, 87-135 Brompton Road (0171-730 1234)

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How does a restaurant handle a celebrity drunk? Joe Warwick finds out

# Being shown the back door



Chris Evans and Jimmy 'Five Belles' leaving a bar

It's 7pm — some 48 hours before "kebabgate" — and I'm outside The Pharmacy restaurant in Notting Hill Gate. Chris Evans is walking down the street and gazing wearily back at the restaurant where there a small group of snappers is waiting. Paul Gascoigne is somewhere inside.

I know this because his drinking partner and sometime minder Jimmy "Five Belles" is making an impression at the entrance. He has a manic grin on his face as he presses his forehead against the window and waves frantically to someone inside. Not the most circumspect start to a bender which comes to an undignified end when the troubled England star is photographed in the middle of Soho soaking up the night's beer with a kebab.

Every night hundreds of celebrities finish their evenings the worse for wear. And occasionally, as people like Noel and Liam Gallagher and the chef Alastair Little found, they wake up in the morning to find tabloid headlines over a picture of themselves slumped outside their favourite venue.

The reason this happens so rarely is because many restaurants and bars with a celebrity clientele have well-rehearsed plans which can swing into action at a moment's notice to protect their customers from the ridicule and embarrassment which Gazza seems to attract.

So just how does the swish catering deal with the football, soap or film star who's had too much? Do some stars tip off photographers? Do some restaurant managers?

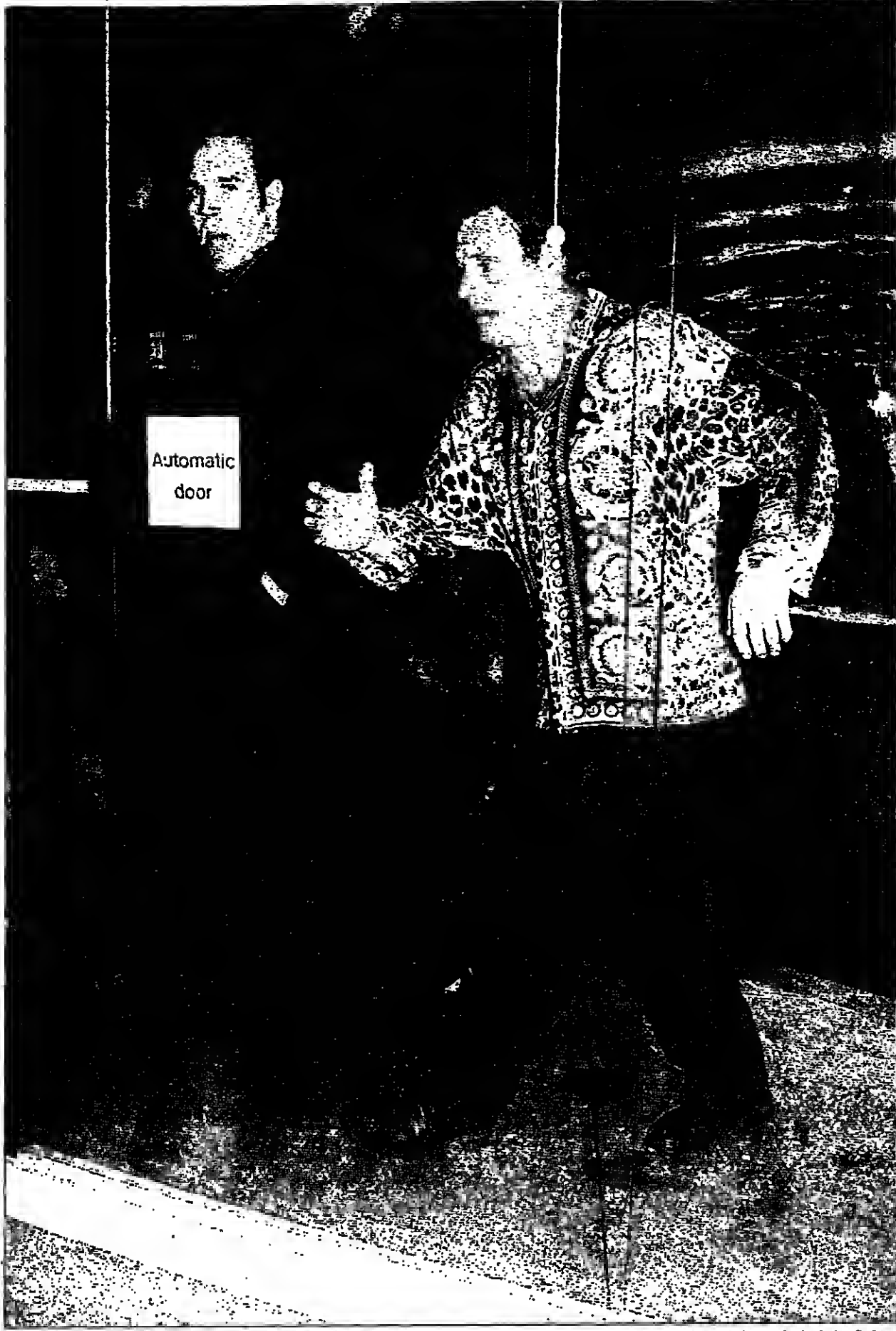
Ruth Mayer, restaurant manager at The Pharmacy, says that its policy is no different from most establishments. "We don't give out the names of people who eat here and we're respectful of the fact that they're individuals with private lives and that they want to enjoy themselves and not be bothered."

There are, she admits, limits to what can be done to protect the famous. "You can't stop fans and paparazzi from being outside in the street. We don't encourage them but we certainly are not offensive to them." As for smuggling out guests she says: "In any building there is more than one exit but then the press often know where they are."

At Marco Pierre White's Oak Room, front-of-house man Max Palmer says that discretion blended with understatement is the key to avoiding problems: "We never make a fuss of anyone's arrival. We try to give them a relatively discreet table, not one in full view in the middle of the room. Most of the time that's what they want. We'd rather understate the situation than overstate it."

"If all else fails and someone leaks information to the media there is a contingency plan which allows guests to leave undisturbed. This can be followed should anyone need it."

**You can't stop the paparazzi from being outside'**



Gazza leaving The Pharmacy restaurant after a drinking session. He was later photographed eating a kebab in Soho

Mr Palmer says. "We also have a discreet side entrance which people can use."

At 192, another west London haunt of the rich and sometimes shameless, restaurant manager Paul Madden operates a similarly discreet policy. "We don't make a fuss of anyone famous unless they're ultra-famous. We never really bothered about the paparazzi. The only time we had trouble was when Liam Gallagher and Patsy Kensit were getting married and she had her hen night here." The bride-to-be eventually made it into a taxi through a throng of snappers.

Architectural limitations mean that he is unable to offer an alternative escape route. "Unfortunately they can't go out any other way even if they want. I've worked in places where there is a discreet side door. It's dead easy then as long as the paparazzi don't know about it," he says.

Ben Purdole, manager at the Met Bar, has the advantage of the bar turning into a members-only club after 5pm. "We have two large booths that I keep for people who need a little discretion. Like other Park Lane hotels and

restaurants we have a side entrance for celebrities who don't want their photograph taken outside the bar. It's there if they ask for it, and sometimes I offer it. It would be very good for us to have a picture of a celebrity in the paper walking out of the bar but it's more important that those people come back, and therefore discretion is the key," he says.

At the members-only Groucho club in Soho, Drew Munce says there are very few celebrities who won't face the music. "However there are secret exits which we can normally hustle them through if they want. It happens very rarely but when it does we use one of the exits that leads onto another street. We sneaked Madonna out that way. The exit's in a place that you really wouldn't think is an exit for the club."

He sees the club's duty to members as to "generally adhere to their whims". But a stressed, drunk and nervous celebrity is not always the easiest creature to lead away from trouble. Has he ever had to suggest to members that

they shouldn't go out the front door? "Yes," he admits "if we think it's in their best interests. We have done that on occasions and they have been grateful afterwards."

On the other side of the doors, however, a slightly less discreet system operates. Richard Young, one of the first paparazzi in London, took some of the most celebrated paparazzi pictures of the stars of the Seventies and Eighties. He says: "My approach was, and would still be, to go straight through the front door, go straight up to the table and take the shot — and if they don't like it, then too bad."

Secret exits are, in Mr Young's view, something of a fiction: "Just look where the rubbish is. Once you've found that, that's the only way out." A similarly robust view comes from Ken Lennox, picture editor of *The Sun*, who sees thousands of such shots a year. He says: "Those who crave anonymity could achieve it very easily by not turning up at the same half a dozen restaurants week after week. These people live by

**The press often know where hidden exits are'**

having their photographs taken. Perhaps London's two most discreet eating establishments are the Ivy and Le Caprice. It is at these that the likes of Harold Pinter, George Michael and Madonna rub shoulders with Sir John Gielgud and Melvyn Bragg. Football stars are thin on the ground — and so are pictures of fired and emotional customers leaving. Jeremy King, who oversees both restaurants, says: "It's our policy not to discuss the clientele but we get asked an awful lot."

Mr King extricates himself from our chat with a smidgeon of flattery: "One of the things you can be sure is that the paparazzi will be reading your article," he says, leading me gently away from the table with the famous faces before I can snatch a quote, let alone a picture.

It seems in the end that clubs and restaurants are often the sets on which celebs and photographers scrap and feed off each other. Perhaps Gazza should end his next bender with a meal in a devoutly discreet establishment such as The Ivy? But it probably does not have kebab with onions on the menu — and I suspect the Sphinx-like Mr King wouldn't tell me even if it did.

# Drink



## Jane MacQuitty

It takes courage to send back a faulty restaurant wine, but with the right knowledge it can be done

The recent row over wine writer Alice King's decision to send back a bottle of wine that she judged faulty, and her subsequent ban from the restaurant that served it, proves one thing: the relationship between wine waiter and customer is as fraught as ever.

The restaurant where Miss King ate refused to accept that there was anything wrong with the wine. So where do you stand if you are not happy with a bottle?

I would not hesitate to send back a faulty wine, and, so far, I have not been thrown out of a restaurant or wine bar (although I have been chucked out of supermarkets for skulking round the wine shelves). This does not mean, however, that over two decades of dealing with sommeliers, part of that time as a restaurant critic, all has been plain sailing.

In my experience, there is still a ridiculous stigma attached to a woman ordering wine. Even if a sommelier recognises me, there is generally too much haughty hoo-ha when it comes to serving the wine: absent I note when my other half orders.

Exceptions are rare. One that sticks in my mind is a simple but superb dinner at Sonny's in Barnes, southwest London, earlier this month when Zuri Milos served us a petit chateau 95 claret correctly without fuss or favour.

Irritating though the know-all attitude of some sommeliers may be, the biggest rub, as Alice King found, is trying to send back an unwanted bottle. Keeping cool, calm and collected, and that means sober, as you make your point is essential. It is not good enough just to dislike the wine, without knowing, or explaining why. Faulty bottles range from violently malodorous that reek of taints to the merely dank and musty, or those with a chemical, almost medicinal-cupboard, scent.

Once smelt, these odours, generally associated with corked wines, are never forgotten. Certainly any half-decent sommelier should recognise them, though I have found many who do not. If you suspect you have been served one, check the cork, you may be in luck and find a wet, crumbly cork whose cheesy odour is irrefutable evidence of corked wine.

Such wines, caused by mould-affected corks, are becoming increasingly common, with about 6 per cent of the wine sold in Britain likely to

suffer from this problem. Oxidised wines, where the contents of your glass smell dull, flat and tired, as opposed to the zingy, leap-out-of-the-glass fruit of wines that have not been exposed to air, are also depressingly common.

Plenty of swanky West End hotels which serve grand wines by the expensive glass suffer from this problem. At Christopher's in Covent Garden, I once had some difficulty in explaining to the owner that the glass of Washington State white he had opened yesterday was past its prime until we compared it with a second, freshly opened, vibrant bottle.

If you are lucky, your wine waiter, under questioning, may confess that your bottle was opened the day before. At other times, an obvious sign of oxidised wine such as a weeping, or protruding, cork will give you send-the-bottle-back ammunition that you need.

Badly washed glasses cause their share of grief, and I automatically smell mine before the wine is poured. Dirty glasses cause smelly, fish-tank like odours in your wine. But provided you pour the contents straight into a clean glass, the taint will not have been absorbed.

Cloudy, hazy or sediment-speckled wines, or those bottles that contain a foreign body, are the easiest of all to send back. At Langan's Brasserie in the West End I once ordered a simple Torres Spanish wine — and watched as my clean glass was filled with red wine and a dead black beetle.

So, once you have spotted, or believe you have spotted, faulty wine, how do you get the wine waiter to take it back? Apart from quietly and firmly stating your case, there is not much you can do.

If it is any encouragement, I once sent back four kirs in a row at Bishopstrow House, near Warrminster, in Wiltshire. The drink is made by adding a dash of crème de cassis, or blackcurrant liqueur, to white wine: the first two were made using oxidised wine, the last two with a freshly opened but foul and undrinkable southern French white. The sommelier maintained that all four were fine.

This was in contrast with the French wine waiter in a popular Paris brasserie who, after a little persuasion, took back 13 identical bottles of a cheesy, late-tainted, bottom-of-the-barrel muscadet.

Take courage, you can do it.



Mum know the Hunniford

High Laurie is the Prime Minister and Stephen Fry is the next Director General of the BBC. Who is murdering London's dentists?

LIBERTY RADIO 4

THINGS DIFFERENT

THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

Galliano

THE TAG of Galliano has indeed become a desirable one. When our John, the couturier of that ilk, sought some protection for his name recently, he met with rather a sniffy response from his patrician, Euro-trash namesakes. A reputation such as his, however, must do the oddball Galliano liqueur more favours than any advertising campaign.

rather herbal concoction, a distillation compound of numerous spices with a hint of vanilla.

Novelty containers are usually the reserve of snobby, "local" tonics, bought on holiday and then forgotten, but the Galliano Flute is, for some reason, an essential item in the well-stocked cocktail bar. Its popularity among bar-room brawlers has prompted the experienced barman to keep this spectacular baseball bat on the highest shelf of his establishment.

And there it usually remains, for although its promotion in the US in the early 1960s led to a brief 15 minutes in demand for cocktails such as the Bossa Nova, and the Yellow Bird, these, with the exception of the Harvey Wallbanger, are now largely forgotten, but not gone, as they say of the unfashionable.

KATE STRONACH



HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

THERE are certain dishes that we will eat in restaurants but never think of preparing at home. After a little research I discovered that fish-based recipes are the ones that intimidate us most, and when I suggested certain ingredients to friends it was the squid and also the octopus that were the greatest culprits.

For the moment it is the octopus that I wish to concentrate on. Any nation that has substantial coastal areas will consume virtually anything that is drawn from the sea. I am going to refer to two countries today, one for the recipe and one for the "cheat".

Galicia in northwest Spain prepares *pulpo a la Gallega* (aka octopus Galician style). It is a very simple preparation: freshly cooked octopus, dressed with oil and spice.

When I first tried it I marvelled at the tenderness of its dense flesh. I also recalled stories of fishermen bringing home the octopuses and their wives spending half an hour or more bashing them against a wall or on a table to tenderise the flesh. It did seem like an awful lot of work.

It may be all right for me to get the kitchen apprentice to work up a good sweat as he sorts out two stone of octopus in the prep area, but if you live in a flat with no outside, or have no wish to cover

your walls with a fishy detritus then you would have no desire to prepare this dish. Over to Japan and problem solved. Daikon, or mooli as it is called here, contains an enzyme that has tenderising properties.

So, for some effortless preparation, purchase a couple of octopuses weighing about 500g each, ask the fishmonger to remove the head as all you need for the dish are the tentacles, joined together.

OCTOPUS Serves 4

Grate 250g of daikon into a bowl and add the octopuses. Put on a pair of rubber gloves and massage the octopuses well for ten minutes, then rinse off all the gunk and pat dry. Cut the tentacles into bite-sized chunks and set aside.

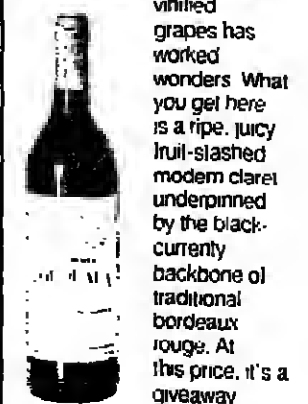
In a large frying pan heat a decent splash of good olive oil along with a whole garlic clove and a generous pinch of paprika (the hot Spanish variety). Cook for five minutes, then throw in the octopus and toss well to coat the pieces in the oil. When hot, discard the garlic clove, transfer to a serving platter and sprinkle with coarse sea salt and perhaps a wedge of lemon. A glass of fino to wash it down and that's it.

The author is head chef at Harvey Nichols Fifth Floor restaurant in Knightsbridge

STAR BUYS

Bordeaux Rouge, Ginestrè, Sainsbury's £2.99.

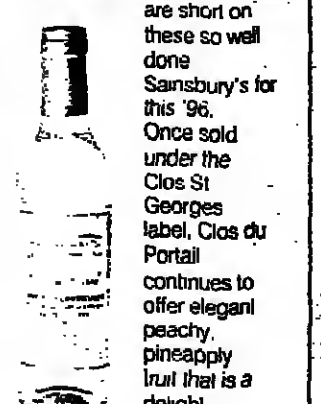
Time was, when cheap, own-label claret was a miserable experience. But a series of good vintages and an insistence on ripeness, better-quality and carefully vinified grapes has worked wonders. What you get here is a ripe, juicy fruit-slashed modern claret underpinned by the black-currently backbone of traditional Bordeaux rousés. At this price, it's a giveaway.



BEST OF THE REST Blended discounted offer of champagnes, until July 31, delivers big names such as Pommery Brut, down a fiver to £14.99, along with lesser known, non-vintage bubbles such as Veuve Delamay, down £1 to £9.99, and Albert Beeren, down £3 to £11.99. Vintage champagne Swingers should snap up the classy 1990 Le Mesnil Blanc de Blancs, down £4 to £16.99. Here's to summer.

1996 Clos du Portail, Graves Supérieures, half bottle £3.99.

The strawberry season is here and with it the need for decent halves of dessert wine that will not accompany bowls of cloaked cream and berries. We are short on these so well done Sainsbury's for this '96. Once sold under the Clos St Georges label, Clos du Portail continues to offer elegant peachy, pineapple fruit that is a delight.





هكذا من الأصل

# The Times Cook

The long, balmy evenings of early summer are the ideal time to conjure up a barbecue to remember



Frances Bissell

The good thing about barbecues is the wide variety of equipment available, tailored to every need. If you happen to own a meadow, you can dig a pit for a stylish outdoor feast, a Bedouin-style "lamb mechoui". For a city balcony, a disposable barbecue is the answer. Equally, I know people who use elaborate barbecue smokers all year round, and have them placed on decks outside their kitchen doors as extra ovens. If you don't want to build your own barbecue with bricks and grills, gas or electric high-speed barbecues are available.

Until recently, whenever we barbecued at home, we used the small disposable models available in hardware stores, garages and supermarkets. Now I have found an excellent collapsible model. It is sturdy, easy to assemble and dismantle, and there is a grill to hold the food. Charcoal is to be bought separately.

Good skewers are a worthwhile investment. They should be flat to prevent food swivelling, and long enough to avoid burns. Long chefs' tongs, for turning food without piercing it are useful, as are oven gloves. Add to these a plastic box or two for marinating your ingredients. Alternatively, there is an interesting product from South Africa on the market: a marinade in a zip-lock bag. Add your pieces of fish or meat, zip up the bag, massage for a couple of minutes and then leave to

the most comprehensive selection is available by mail order from Lakeland Limited (015394 88100), or from its stores.

Having equipped yourself, or your partner, with all the above and a sturdy apron, and with a weather-eye out for rain clouds, what about the food?

For a first course, a vegetable tart, a selection of charcuterie and chewy bread, smoked fish and brown bread, or crudités with mayonnaise are ideal, and can be prepared in advance.

Fresh goat's cheeses and green salad end a barbecue perfectly, as do strawberries in sparkling wine, peaches in elderflower syrup, a fruit tart, a trifle or a trio of good ice-creams.

For the main course, you might like to present a selection of food appropriately marinated, and let everyone make up their own skewers for barbecuing. Quartered chicken breasts, lamb neck fillet in cubes, diced rump steak, lamb's kidneys and squares of liver are all suitable, as are veal chops, duck breasts and quail. Or try scallops, prawns, chunks of monkfish, salmon, halibut, swordfish and tuna. Whole sardines, scaled and gutted by your fishmonger, can be lightly stuffed with herbs and couscous before barbecuing.

If you barbecue fish often, a hinged heavy wire grill is useful to hold the fish without the flesh falling on to the coals. Remember to brush or spray the grill with oil to stop meat or fish sticking to it.

As an alternative to kebabs, choose just one meat to char-grill — for example a pair of spatchcocked ducks, a couple of butterflied legs of lamb, a fillet of beef, or a cured loin of pork. Not as impressive as a spit-roasted lamb, but more exciting than burgers, kebabs and chicken drumsticks.

Plan it when you know the weather is going to remain good, invest in all the accompaniments, have your first course and pudding made in advance and serve large frosted jugs of strong, colourful drinks, well-chilled rosé cava and some equally chilled fino sherry. It will be a barbecue to remember.

Roasted vegetable tart Serves 6 to 8  
500g bread dough  
Extra virgin olive oil

- 6 medium to large courgettes, blanched and sliced
- 1 or 2 aubergines, sliced and lightly grilled
- 2 red peppers, peeled and seeded
- 8-9 firm, ripe tomatoes, seeded and sliced thickly
- Coarse sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Fresh basil and mint

A tart tin some 45cm across, ie a roasting tray, can be used. A pizza tray is ideal. Oil the tin and roll out the dough to fit.

Brush the dough with olive oil and arrange the vegetables on it. Drizzle on a little more olive oil

- and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
- Bake in the centre of a preheated oven at 200C, gas mark 6, for 45 to 50 minutes. Serve warm or hot, scattered with torn-up herbs.
- Barbecued duck Serves 6
- 2 ducks (each 2.5kg)
- 2 carrots
- 2 turnips
- 1 celery stalk or celery heart
- 6 or 8 garlic cloves
- 4 bay leaves
- Sprigs of thyme and rosemary
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 bottle good full-bodied red wine

With heavy kitchen scissors or poultry shears, cut the backbones out of the ducks. Then flatten each bird by pressing hard on its front to crack the breast bone and ribs.

Put in a roasting tin on a bed of the peeled chopped root vegetables, some fresh herbs, garlic, bay leaves and pepper, and pour over a bottle of red wine to marinate. Leave for 12 to 24 hours, turning the birds over after half the time.

Remove the ducks from the marinade, dry them, prick the skin in the fattiest parts, and roast in a hot oven (220C, gas mark 7) for 15-20 minutes. Have your charcoal grill burning at medium low. Place the ducks on the grill, skin side

down, and cook for 30 to 35 minutes, or until the juices run clear when pricked with a skewer. During cooking, turn the duck over for 5-10 minutes to grill the carcass surface. Boil up the marinade and use to brush over the duck.

When the birds are cooked, transfer them to a carving board or platter and, once rested, carve or cut up with poultry shears.

The same basic method can be used for lamb or pork, with some amendments to preparing the joint. Lamb: Have the leg, or legs, boned and the flesh opened out like a book, but keep the shank bone in as this provides a useful handle when carving the lamb. Baste from time to time during cooking.

Pork: The loin is a good cut for barbecuing but needs basting. The chine bone should be removed and the thickest part of the meat and fat can be slashed between the ribs.

Remember in all cases to bring the meat to room temperature before cooking.

- Traditional English trifle Serves 10
- 4 free-range eggs, separated
  - 120g icing sugar
  - 120g self-raising flour, sifted
  - 1 vanilla pod
  - 400ml milk
  - 250ml single cream
  - 6 free-range egg yolks
  - 85g caster sugar
  - 500ml whipping cream
  - Apricot glaze or redcurrant jelly
  - 2 or 3 amaretti or 6 ratafias
  - 150ml cream sherry, such as Valdespino Cream or Harveys Bristol Cream
  - Toasted flaked almonds

Whisk the yolks of four eggs over hot water with half the sugar until pale and thick enough to leave a ribbon. Whisk the egg whites, adding the remaining sugar.

Fold the flour into the egg-yolk mixture, and fold the two mixtures together. Spread in a prepared swiss-roll tray. Bake for 10-12 minutes at 180C, gas mark 4. Turn out. Trim off crisp edges. Roll loosely. Make up a thick custard in the usual way, infusing the vanilla pod

THE PERFECT BANANA SPLIT

APPEALING to the child in all of us, the banana split is one of the easiest ways to finish a meal. And good ingredients make it a real treat.

■ YOU NEED, for each person: One ripe, but not over-ripe, banana; two scoops of the best and strongest vanilla ice-cream — I recommend Hill Station's Strong Vanilla Bean; hot chocolate sauce, which you can make yourself by melting Valrhona chocolate in two tablespoons cream; whipped cream, optional; and toasted flaked almonds for decoration.

■ METHOD: In a shallow glass dish arrange the banana, split down the middle, and the ice-cream. Top with whipped cream and pour the hot chocolate sauce over the top. Scatter with almonds.

■ ALTERNATIVES: Serve the chocolate sauce separately, and for those who do not like their chocolate ration this way, heat some luxury caramel spread (Dulce de Leche) and offer it instead.

Next week: The perfect gravadlax



in the milk and cream as you scald it. Pour over the eight egg yolks, strain into a clean pan, and cook in a bain-marie until the mixture thickens. Scrape the vanilla seeds into the custard, add the sugar and allow to cool. Whisk the whipping cream until firm.

Spread the sponge with the glaze or jelly; roll up and slice it. Line the bottom of a glass bowl with the sponge slices. Place the amaretti on top, and moisten with the sherry. Spoon on the custard, and chill to set slightly. Spread the whipped cream on top, and arrange the flaked almonds round the edge and in a daisy pattern.

© Frances Bissell 1998  
Next week: Mint juleps for a Derby Day party



marinate for 30 minutes or so. This is a simple principle to adapt to your own marinades.

Elegant French Laguiole knives are practical as well as pleasing to handle, and perfect for cutting through steaks and kebabs. Citronella candles are a must for keeping the area clear of midges and other insects. Small weights or clips to secure the tablecloth from gusts of wind are also useful.

Kitchenware and hardware shops, as well as the larger supermarkets, will supply most of your barbecue needs, but probably



## Mum knows best in the Hunniford home

Gloria Hunniford, the television and radio presenter, was not encouraged to cook when she was growing up. The kitchen, she says, was always her mother's domain. "My mother was such a brilliant cook, she never let us do anything." Ms

HOME COOKING

Hunniford remembers her mother as an industrious baker: "She made 13 to 14 types of Irish bread every Saturday." As tribute to her mother's memory and cooking, Ms

Hunniford produced a family cookbook which contained all her mother's and grandmother's handwritten recipes.

But one result of her mother's domination of the kitchen was that when Ms Hunniford left home, her culinary skills were sorely lacking. "I was a lousy cook when I got married, so I had to learn," she admits.

She had to cook for her three children, Caron, now TV presenter Caron Keating, along with Paul and Michael, who were brought up near Hillsborough in County Down, Northern Ireland. The two eldest children, Caron and Paul, turned their noses up at most things.

"Caron and Paul were very



Gloria Hunniford, in 1975, with Caron, Michael and Paul

picky eaters. The first question they used to ask when I cooked was not 'Can I have more?' but 'What can I have?'

"It didn't do anything for my cooking prowess at all. They seemed to hate all vegetables.

It was a nightmare. I used to try the traditional things, such as 'You can't leave the table until you've finished your egg.' Caron used to take her dinner to the toilet and guard it in case her brother tried to swap

the plates around and she ended up with more."

Caron was not always the victim though, as her mother reveals: "I remember when Paul was younger and wasn't able to defend himself, and on one occasion when he left the table, I asked him if he had finished his egg. He said yes he had. I went back and saw the egg on his plate and told him that he was a very naughty boy. It was only several years ago when Caron finally confessed that, in fact, she had swapped it around. Poor little Paul took the brunt of it and had to eat two eggs."

Caron and her two brothers showed enthusiasm only for the usual childhood favourites of beans and tinned spaghetti. While her eldest son's appetite improved with age, Caron remained a delicate eater. "Caron still pushes food around the plate."

"It's only when you get older that you start to ask was I a good mother." Ms Hunniford

JOE WARWICK

Open House With Gloria Hunniford is on Channel 5 at 2pm, Monday to Friday

MORE FOOD & DRINK IN the times Magazine

The changing face of Sunday lunch plus Jonathan Meades in World Cup France

"If Hugh Laurie is the Prime Minister and Stephen Fry wants to be the next Director General of the BBC, who is murdering London's dentists?"

IN THE CHAIR: Michael Williams, Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie head an all-star cast in this new political comedy from the award-winning creator of "In the Red".

Friday evenings from 9 June, 6.30-7.00. Repeated Saturday lunchtimes, 12.30.

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YOU'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

ENTRANTS in this test were unlucky as I had just returned from the Mediterranean, juicing Maltese oranges which are grown in Tunisia and sold in the south of France. None of the British retailers' freshly squeezed orange juices could match, but I have never seen Maltese de Tunisia on sale here. Differences between these products were slight, but two stood out. That could vary with the seasons. ROBIN YOUNG

Somerfield Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice, £2.45 for 1 litre  
Claims: "100ml provides 83 per cent of the RDA of vitamin C. Contains natural bits of orange that separates on standing."  
Verdict: A bit of texture, slightly sour. ★

St Michael Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice, £2.39 for 1 litre  
Claims: "Juice of at least 16 oranges. 100 per cent natural. Squeezed and packed within 24 hours." 10.7g sugar per 100ml. Does not quote vitamin C content.  
Verdict: Large pulp floaters. Refined, not oversweet. Among the best in this testing. ★★

Waitrose Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice, £2.39 for 1 litre  
Claims: "Only contains the juice of fresh oranges." Verdict: A high 11.5g of sugar per 100 ml gave this the fullest, fruitiest flavour, with good balance. ★★

Asda Freshly Squeezed Pure Orange Juice, £1.19 for 500ml  
Claims: "100 per cent pure unsweetened. Tangy." 250ml contains twice the RDA of vitamin C. 10g per 100 sugar.

CONSUMING INTERESTS: ORANGE JUICE



backtaste. There were floating bits, some stringy. Over-pressed? ★

Waitrose Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice, £2.39 for 1 litre  
Claims: "Only contains the juice of fresh oranges." Verdict: A high 11.5g of sugar per 100 ml gave this the fullest, fruitiest flavour, with good balance. ★★

Asda Freshly Squeezed Pure Orange Juice, £1.19 for 500ml  
Claims: "100 per cent pure unsweetened. Tangy." 250ml contains twice the RDA of vitamin C. 10g per 100 sugar.

choice. Separation of this product is natural." 10.7g carbohydrate (ie, sugar) per 100ml. No vitamin C content quote.  
Verdict: Strong colour, fairly thick with pulpy floaters. Gusty flavour. ★★

Co-op Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice, £2.39 for 1 litre  
Claims: "Product of more than one country." An estimated 166 per cent RDA of vitamin C in every 200ml.  
Verdict: Small traces of pulp though the most smoothly textured. Sweet and pleasant, although only 9.6g sugar per 100ml. ★★

Safeway Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice, £1.45 for 500ml (£2.45 for 1 litre)  
Claims: "Rich in vitamin C. 100 per cent juice. Oranges from 16 countries are selected for flavour and juiciness. Packed within hours of squeezing..."  
Verdict: A lot of pithy flavour. Plenty of floaters. Good, not great. ★

Sainsbury's Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice, £2.79 for 1.5 litre (£1.89 per 1 litre)  
Claims: "Squeezed and bottled on the same day... made to an approved Sainsbury's blend. 100 per cent pure."  
Verdict: Sweet with 10.5g of sugar per 100ml. Estimated 134 per cent RDA of vitamin C per 200ml. Some floaters. Average. ★★

Morrisons Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice, £2.19 for 1 litre  
Claims: "The obvious

IN FRANCE, A BOTTLE OF

CHAMPAGNE Canard-Duchene

IS OPENED EVERY 10 SECONDS

CHAMPAGNE SAUVIGNON



'Not many women are interested in moths, I can't think why. Maybe there's a certain squeamishness built in to the education of girls'

## Little bits of fluff on the side

### LIFE AND SOUL



LUCY PINNEY

What hobby links professional men and used egg boxes, is especially popular on balmy summer evenings and leads to marital problems?

The answer is mothing, a little-known but compulsive activity, where the enthusiast catches moths in home-made traps. I began to realise mothing was happening on a huge scale when a number of different friends living in remote parts of Dorset told me that they'd been visited by entomologists in the evening. These men had come out of the mists, set up their eerie blue-lit traps, drunk beer and told entertaining stories — and then disappeared as swiftly as they'd arrived.

It turns out that the moth-recorders are all being co-ordinated by one small, lively man with a gingery beard: Dr Philip Sterling, the County Ecologist. He claims Dorset is the best county for moths because not only does it have a diverse geology and range of habitats but it's warm and constantly invaded by new species from the Continent.

"The most famous spot to find them is Portland Bill, and when the winds are

southerly there can be so many people trying to catch immigrant moths on the cliffs that they're jostling for position." Dr Sterling prefers to go inland and find little private gardens — and large estates — where moths have never been caught professionally before. Recently he's been recording on the spreading acres of Melbury Park and has found a very rare moth, the Double Line, which has aristocratic tastes and only breeds on extensive parkland.

Dr Sterling's traps consist of a sawn-off plastic dustbin with a funnel on the top, and a lamp hanging in the funnel. You can catch moths with an ordinary light, but if you use an ultra-violet one you get a much larger haul: easily 200 species in a single night. "It's the wealth of diversity in moths that's so enthralling. In this country you'd be lucky to see three dozen species of butterfly in a lifetime. I've seen 2,000 species of moth

already, and I've about 500 to go." It's kind to put egg boxes in the bottom of the traps because then the moths have a comfortably rough surface to grip on to while they wait for morning.

Occasionally something else gets to the traps and empties them before Dr Sterling and his colleagues can. Badgers, hedgehogs and toads have a taste for moths, and bats enjoy snacking on them, too.

"A friend in West Bexington fished the same long-eared bat out of his traps several nights on the trot. Birds can be even worse. They teach each other how to

get into moth-traps. Once the blue-tits have learnt how to do it, the sparrows and starlings will join in, and you have to put chicken wire up to stop them."

Not all moths can be caught with traps. Some species aren't attracted to light, and these have to be tracked down by looking for their food source and then searching for caterpillars. Unfortunately, the most threatened moths breed on the rarest plants. One of this year's quests is for the Horehound Plume moth, which hasn't been seen since 1886, and only breeds on a plant called White Horehound, which

resembles a scentless, furry-leaved lemon balm. If anyone living in Dorset knows of a decent-sized patch of White Horehound, Dr Sterling is desperate to hear from them.

He couldn't find and record as many species as he does if it wasn't for the help of amateur naturalists, many of them eminent in other fields. He's particularly reliant on off-duty GPs. "It's the perfect hobby for the busy professional man because it can be done at evenings and weekends. It does tend to be just men that do it, too," Dr Sterling adds regretfully. "Not many women are interested in moths. I can't think why. Maybe there's a certain squeamishness built in to the education of girls."

Dr Sterling became enthralled by moths when he was five, and his father bought him a butterfly net. He went on to

do a doctorate on the Brown-tail moth, a species that has an extremely poisonous, hairy caterpillar. Brown-tail caterpillar hairs are like minuscule, barbed hypodermic syringes full of toxic fluid, and when they blow about in the wind they cause epidemics of skin-rashes. It was this interest in the ecological impact of moths that led to his present job, but he says ruefully that he's far too gripped by the creatures for his own good. "If I could only spend every waking hour with moths I would, but unfortunately there are other constraints in life, like earning money and spending time with my family. It's definitely an obsessive hobby that leads to marital break-up."

Although mothing has at times made his life difficult, Dr Sterling is still keen to recruit new enthusiasts. You don't have to live in Dorset to become involved. An acute pleasure of mothing is opening the traps and handling the specimens, and anyone is welcome to the next public opening, which will be at Broadcroft Quarry in Portland, at 9.30am on July 5. But it would be wise to think carefully first — especially if you're married.



Barbara Jones, left, instructs Matthew Brace, centre, in the art of building a house from straw. Once rendered, the structure will be as sturdy as any in more traditional materials

## The house that is built of straw

There is a building revolution going on with not a brick in sight. The construction material for the 21st century is straw. Things have come a long way since fairy-tale wolves used to prowling around blowing down pigs' houses. These days a straw bale building is every bit as sturdy as one built with bricks or breeze blocks, almost equally fire resistant, half the price, and twice the fun to put up.

With 4.4 million new homes due to be built in Britain over the next ten years, straw bales could provide a cheap, easy and ecologically sound answer for builders.

To learn the technique, I went to West Wales in search of straw-bale guru, Barbara Jones, founder of the all-woman roofing company, Amazon Nails. I found her, appropriately, at the Centre for Alternative Technology in the Corris valley, north of Machynlleth in Powys, midway through a week's course for novices.

They had already learnt the history of straw-bale building, which originated at the turn of the century among the settlers of the Sand Hills in Nebraska on the western edge of the Great American Plains.

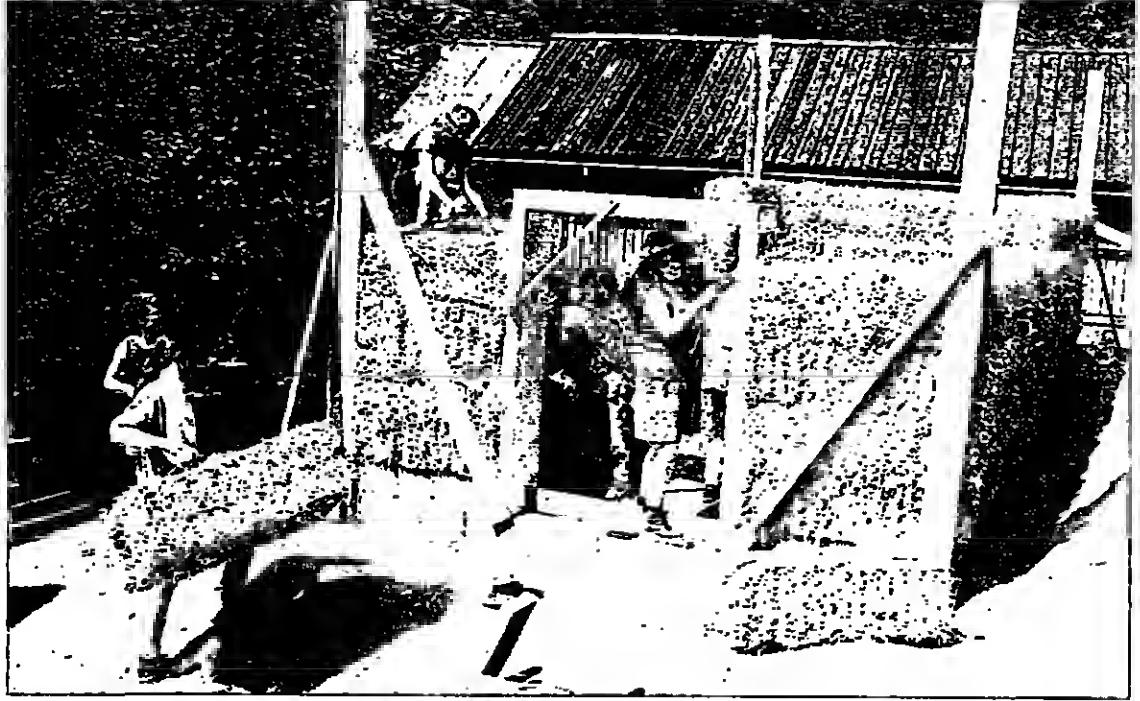
The settlers had piles of waste straw, so they decided to build with it. Since then, in the US, two and three-storey homes, community buildings, workshops, studios, offices and farm buildings have been constructed using the technique. The walls are thick, creating good insulation from the elements and noise.

There is no reason, says Jones, why schools, health centres and shelters for the homeless could not be made from straw bales, dramatically reducing the cost to the public purse. Amazon Nails is already working with two housing associations in West Yorkshire to prove the point.

Between hammering in dovelling rods to hold the bales in place, Jones's students had plenty of questions that needed answers. Henry Verrett, a furniture designer, was there to learn how to build a studio in his back garden in Bath. He wanted to know what it would cost.

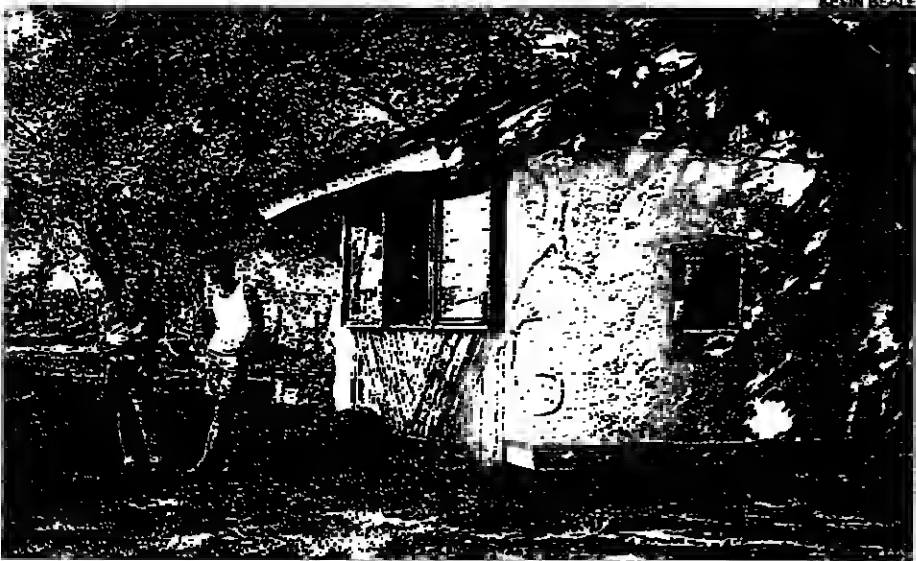
"On average, a straw bale house

**Matthew Brace huffs and he puffs but the house of the future will not blow down**



KEVIN BEALE

Above: the house starts to take shape. Bales are cheap, easy to use and ecologically sound



Left: the completed straw bale house, at the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales

saves 50 per cent of the cost of a brick house," said Jones. "It can cost between £12.50 and £35 a square foot, depending on its size, and how much labour you have to pay for. If you get your friends to help, it's much cheaper. A brick house costs roughly £50 to £60 a square foot."

So, a straw bale chicken shed could cost as little as £300, and a family house anything up to £100,000.

Two Brazilians, on the course courtesy of their government, who were planning to return home to build straw bale houses, wanted to know the fire risks.

"They can be less than those in a brick house," said Jones. "The bales are so compacted that once the roof [usually gabled, and of recycled wood] is on and the bales are coated

in plaster, it is like trying to set fire to a telephone directory." In tests carried out by the National Research Centre of Canada, surface coatings withstood temperatures of 1,500F for two hours before a small crack developed.

As I wobbled on top of the back wall of the new straw house which was sagging outwards alarmingly, I was keener to know how much high wind or hard rain it would take for it to collapse. It was unstable now only because the rendering plaster was not on, I was told by Jones.

Later, when Sarah Jenkinson, the centre's media officer, showed me "one we made earlier", I saw the light. The straw house was indeed the

toughest of dwellings, and the easiest. But what about planning permission? Normal legislation applies most of the time, and there has been at least one case of a straw-bale building being pulled down because the owners failed to inform the council or meet building requirements.

"This really is a way to grow your own house," said Jones. "We use all natural materials. Sometimes you have to use metal pins to hold the bales in place, but hazel ones do just as well."

So successful is her company and courses such as this one that she has recently been given a £6,000 scholarship by the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust, the charitable arm of the Royal Warrant Holders' Association.

the body representing companies providing goods or services to the Royal Family. Jones was one of seven people who won awards to pursue their traditional crafts, and is off to study lime and mud plastering.

The straw-bale team worked diligently together in the Welsh sunshine. They were kindred spirits, forward-thinking individuals, all keen on alternative ways of living. It was probably the most gentle and polite building site in the land, but even New Age workmen and women can get ratty at the end of a long, hot, physical day, and by evening, tempers were beginning to fray.

The Brazilians were bossing a young man on top of the front wall of the house, who was trying to hammer in a dovelling rod. He swore it was going in straight, but the Brazilians kept making him do it over and over again. When they finally all agreed on the angle of entry, and the dowel sank through the bales, we gave the young man a round of applause.

Our faces were red from the sun, our eyes raw from the straw dust, and we were ready to drip. But behind us stood a small house — our house. Well, their house, really. I had only popped in for an afternoon.

All it needed now was the roof, the windows to be cut out and crafted by chain saw, and layers of lime plaster to be slapped on to the walls to render them. We felt inspired and proud, as the people of the Sand Hills must have done 100 years ago when they erected their first straw-hale house on the untamed plains of Nebraska.

Information on straw building from Barbara Jones, 01752 810700. Details on the Centre for Alternative Technology, courses and fees 01854 702470.

## Get your fill of the gannet

### FEATHER REPORT

IF YOU go up to North Berwick on the Firth of Forth and take a boat out to the Bass Rock, you will see one of the most spectacular bird sights in the British Isles. The Bass Rock is home to more than 20,000 pairs of nesting gannets, those magnificent seabirds that are the nearest thing we have in Britain to an albatross — massive, gleaming white birds with a creamy yellow head, a pale beak like a dirk, and black tips to their great spreading wings.

Out at sea they dive into the water with a tremendous splash to pick up mackerel and herrings. Back on the Rock, they keep up a sustained roar with their endless cries of greeting and anger. Their nests on the ledges are mounds of seaweed and any other debris they can pick up from the sea, and between each nest there lies a deep crust of mud and excrement.

In the nests, there is only one stained white egg, now hatching or about to hatch. The parents have been sitting on it in turn for the past six weeks. As they come in for their spell of incubating they first plant one foot on the egg, then their other foot on top of that, and slowly let their big bodies subside.

For another three months they will be feeding their chick on fish. It will grow bigger than them and when it is ready to fly, it will look quite different from them — a black bird speckled with white. It will fly to West Africa — that is why it needs to be so well fed — while its parents drift out into the Atlantic and the North Sea for the winter. Sometimes they will pass close to the shore, their long cigar-shaped bodies 20 or 30 feet above the waves, but for the most part they will only be seen from ships, until in the

New Year they explore once more the islands and cliffs on which they will nest.

There are about 20 other gannetries in Britain, most of them on or off the Scottish coast. The largest, with more than 50,000 nests, is on the island of St Kilda, far away to the west of Scotland, and much harder to get to than the Bass Rock. Altogether, with about 200,000 pairs nesting in the British Isles, we give home to two-thirds of the world population of gannets.

THEY USED to be subject to considerable exploitation. The eggs were taken, and the birds clubbed to death for food. Even the fish that the gannets regurgitated in their fright were eaten. Bryan Nelson, who camped for three summers with gannets on the Bass Rock, says in his excellent book *Living With Seabirds* (Edinburgh University Press) that probably a million gannets have been harvested from the Rock in the past thousand years.

Now, however, their numbers are increasing. Those young, dark birds slowly turn white and after five years are ready to breed. There are new colonies in Scotland and Norway. At a time when so many land birds are dwindling in numbers, it is good to know that these magnificent divers are still recovering from the depredations of man.

### DERWENT MAY

What's about: Birders — watch out for spotty young robins in gardens, parks and woodland. Twickers — black-winged stilt at Oare Marshes, Kent. Red-footed falcon at Beaulieu Heath, Hampshire. Short-toed lark on the Isle of May, Fife.

Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute

PETER BROWN



Nesting gannets — which are rather like albatrosses

### ON THE SPOT: SHROPSHIRE

#### Rural recommendations

The place: Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire. The view: the surrounding landscape rises steeply on either side of the River Severn.

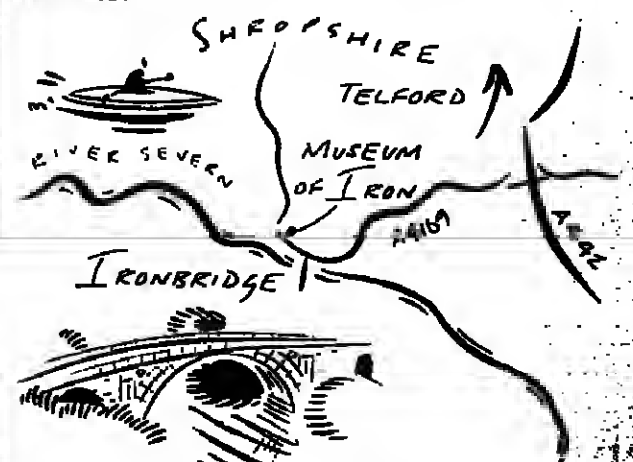
Historical interest: Ironbridge was erected in 1779 by Abraham Darby III and is the centrepiece of a World Heritage Site. Darby's grandfather paved the way for the Industrial Revolution by perfecting the art of smelting iron with coke. As iron production no longer relied on wood fuel, larger quantities could be produced economically. The area became an important industrial centre with dozens of furnaces producing the first iron railway tracks, wheels and steam locomotives.

How to get there: take A442 from Bridgnorth. Best time to visit: early morning/late afternoon to avoid tourists. OS ref: 072/033 on sheet 127

Also nearby: the Ironbridge Gorge museums, including the Museum of Iron and Blisits Hill, a "working" Victorian town.

DEBORAH KING

JANE SPENCER





Get your  
of the game  
FEATHER REPORT

ON THE SPOTS

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Alan Clark is selling the house where his political ambition took root, says Ronald Payne

# No more diaries from Devon

## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

This long, white-fronted house in a Devon lane is where Alan Clark settled after he got married. It was here that he dreamt of achieving political fame. Fortune he was already assured of as the heir of Lord Clark. In the fullness of time he did become famous as MP for Plymouth, a junior minister and a historian — and notorious as a diarist extraordinaire.

Had he gone on to even higher political rank, Town Farm at Bratton Clovelly, near Okehampton, might have become the English equivalent of the American log cabin — traditional breeding place of presidents. Instead, he and his wife Jane are selling their Devon safe house with four-and-a-half acres and a cottage in the village at the modest asking price of £150,000 to £200,000.

Not without a pang or two of regret, either. For it became obvious, as he chatted about the five-bedroomed rural place, that it is a reminder of happy times and of a more innocent phase in the Clark family life.

"I'm very nostalgic about it. This was our first house. We had just got married and it was in an even more ramshackle state than it is now. We lived in it very happily and brought up our two children here. Bratton is where we grew up, so to speak."

It is noticeable that when he speaks of the Devon farm he simply calls it "Bratton", thus giving it an almost equal rating with Saltwood, the far grander castle in Kent that he inherited from his father and where he now lives. Or even with the 77,000 acres at Erriboll in Scotland which is farmed by one of his sons.

By the way, Jane Clark has a croft there which is used as a base for rugged walking. And there is also the chalet in Zermatt, so the Clarks are in no danger of being classified as homeless.

"When I was chosen to fight one of the Plymouth constituencies, we used Bratton as our

West Country base all the time and I was a Member of Parliament there up to 1992." He boasts that 150 Plymouth people sent him cards last Christmas. "I still have friends there, although I'm always depicted as having said dreadful things about them in the diaries."

In fact, he claims that no one, except two or three people who made money out of complaining, really objected to what was said in his diaries. "Of all my political colleagues about whom I've made the most intemperate remarks, none reproaches me and they talk just as indiscreetly as they ever did, perhaps hoping to be recorded."

Town Farm was decorated with murals by Robert Camping, a historian of the Bloomsbury school. "There is a lot of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell still in there. We were trying to turn it into a kind of Charleston at one point — you know, the farmhouse where the Bloomsbury set gathered."

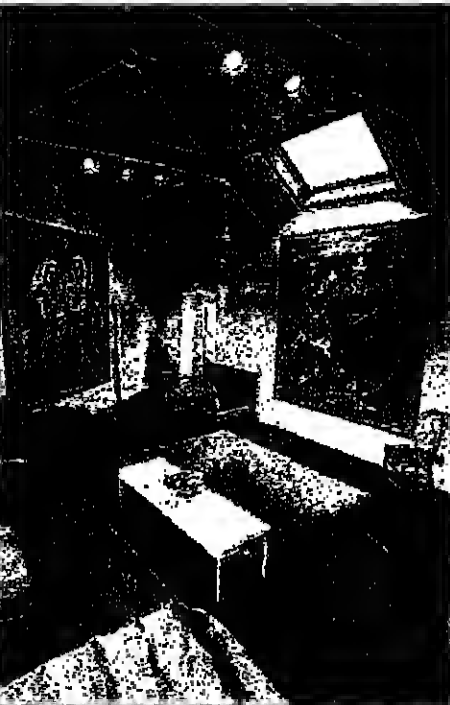
"I loved it for being so relaxing and quiet, all the things that you go to the country for. Bratton was a refuge, somewhere you could go, not quite to hide, but to switch off."

The place has been looked after by a caretaker since the Clarks left and there are people in the village (also for sale) who keep an eye on it. When I ask if the house had been let, he responds firmly, "I never let my houses, I don't like strangers in them."

He is in fact a possessive and private man behind the public facade. The famous pair of family rowlers went with the Clarks on the sentimental journey back there a few days ago. "They are very well," he said. "Having survived police prosecution for savaging a cameraman, they came through without a stain on their paws." In the old days, they were corralled in the



Alan Clark outside Town Farm, his house in Devon. "This was our first house and I'm very nostalgic about it"



The Bloomsbury-style studio



A reception room. "Everything is hopelessly antique," says Clark



Alan Clark in the garden with his wife Jane. "It is so relaxing and quiet, all the things that you go to the country for"

walled garden in front of Bratton where "they couldn't escape but could hurl imprecations at people going past."

Making a rare appearance in the role of salesman, Alan Clark added: "It's a safe place to keep a pet. More characteristically, he went on talking in language less pleasing to the estate agent's ear. "Bratton is hopelessly antique in terms of plumbing and things like that.

There's an indoor bath and lavatory, but they're hopelessly period. It is lovely and a total bargain for anyone with ideas to improve it into a Devon longhouse. That will be expensive which is why the house is so cheap. But if you expect tiles in the bathroom and all that, don't bother to make the journey." He speaks so warmly about Town Farm that it seems surprising he

desided to sell it. But the fact is that he is installed as MP for Kensington and Chelsea and, as master of Saltwood Castle as well, he and his wife hardly use Bratton.

"Neither of my sons wants to keep it on. My elder son has the arable estate in the far north and the other one's in London with a young family — and you can't really commute to Devon. We found ourselves going more and more to Scotland, heading north instead of west."

So there it is. The old order changes, partly because, at 70, even the athletic Alan Clark admits to being conscious of the changes that age brings. "I can't do pull-ups any longer — or not many."

"I tend to avoid the company of contemporaries. All they do is travel rather joltingly down Memory Lane and go in for recollections that are incoherent and incorrect. I've got no time for that. And while many contemporaries look terrible, I try to congratulate myself that I don't really look like that." The admiring lady constituents of Kensington and Chelsea would no doubt agree.

Agents: Knights Frank (01392 423111)

## HOME SWAP

YOUNG city buyers looking for family homes in Highgate, North London, are becoming more selective, says estate agent Keith Cardale Groves. The smartest address in Highgate Village is The Grove, an elegant row of Georgian and Regency houses, where an unmodernised house changed hands recently for £2.5 million. Elsewhere, a modest Victorian cottage will cost £300,000; a four-bedroom period semi-detached £500,000 and a six-bedroom Georgian house up to £1 million.



This four-bedroom, end-of-terrace, Grade II listed, 18th-century house, with a self-contained staff flat and an 80ft rear garden, in Grove Terrace, Highgate, London NW5, can be yours for £1 million. (Keith Cardale Groves, 0181-341, 6566)



For a similar sum (£1.1 million) you can buy Foxboro Hall, a ten-bedroom, Grade II listed, Georgian country house in 45 acres of formal walled gardens, park and woodland, near Woodbridge, Suffolk. It comes with a detached three-bedroom lodge/staff flat, stable block, offices, barns, garaging, heated swimming pool and tennis court. (FDP Savills, 01473 234800)



Spend a little more (£1.5 million) in West Sussex and you can buy Coombelets, an elegant Grade II listed, 18th-century six-bedroom house in 9.5 acres, with a garden by Gertrude Jekyll. It has a self-contained staff flat, a three-bedroom lodge house and additional gardens by Jane Fennell-Widdingsall, RHS gold medalist of the Chelsea Flower Show. (Knight Frank, 0171-629 8171)

CHERYL TAYLOR

## MARKET COMMENT

BEYOND the reach of most commuters to Exeter or Plymouth, and well away from the yachting fraternity of the South Hams, northwest Devon is prime territory for anyone prepared to trade accessibility for unspoilt countryside and relative value for money. In fact, the dual carriageway A30 is a fast and, for most of the year, a delightfully empty road to Exeter, 40 minutes away, from where rail links take just over two hours to London.

Northwest Devon is unlikely to lose its character or attract the mass-market tourist trade of, say, Torbay. But the area does have its own attractions — to the south is Dartmoor, rich riding and walking country, while further north the rivers Taw and Torridge are a magnet for salmon fishermen. The new Roadford Reservoir, only a couple of miles from Bratton Clovelly, has fishing and sailing facilities. Martin Lamb, at Knight Frank's Exeter office, expects it to become "a real tourist draw".

He estimates that the price differential between northwest and east Devon is 10-20 per cent, reflecting the relative remoteness of the former. At the bottom end of the range, a little two-bedroom cottage could be picked up for about £60,000. Mr Lamb cites a one-bedroom example in Bratton Clovelly for £49,000. "Cottages such as these will be pretty basic," he points out, "but as a holi-

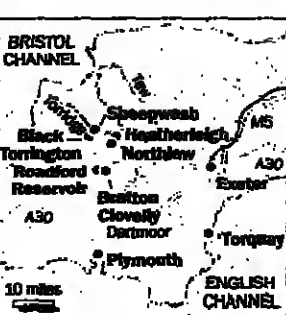
day base or bolthole they could be lovely." Funnies cost anywhere between £150,000 and £300,000, depending on the amount of land attached and their condition. A five-bedroom rectory with, say, ten acres would be about £350,000 to £400,000.

Serious money goes a long way in this part of Devon: a Regency-built manor house (of painted render with slate roofs, rather than brick), with six bedrooms, staff quarters and 20 acres, could be had for around £600,000.

The trouble with property in Devon, as Mr Lamb observes, is the chronic shortage. It is the second largest county in England, with a population of one million; of that, 500,000 are in Plymouth and the Torbay region, leaving the rest scattered over a huge area — so buyers have to be prepared to cast their nets wide and wait if they are to find the sort of place they are looking for.

No far from the A30, Northlew, Hatherleigh and Bratton Clovelly are popular choices; a little further north, fishermen in particular are keen on Sheepwash and Black Torrington (both on the Torridge), though they can expect to pay something of a premium for such close proximity to the river.

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# Building on the best of British design

Rachel Kelly unearths our brightest young architects

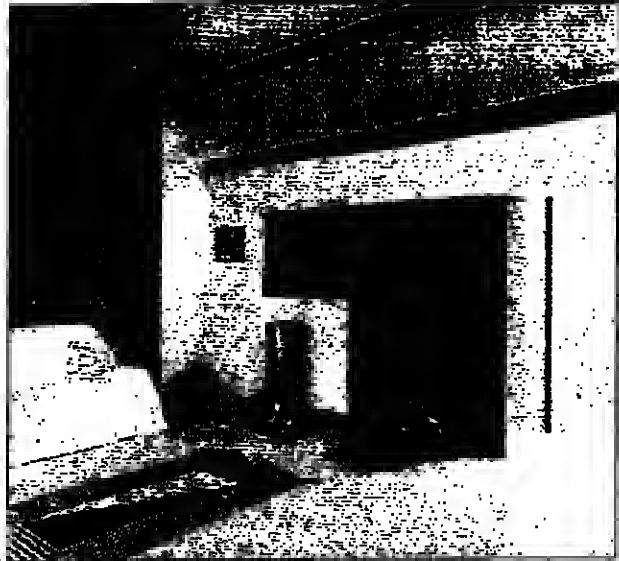
The authors of a directory of young architects launched this week hope it will provide a showcase for the best of British architects.

The directory has been compiled by the Architecture Foundation charity, which was set up in 1991 to promote new design. It is chaired by Lord Rogers of Riverside and partly funded by the Arts Council. The Government funded research for the book and Mark Fisher, and Arts Minister, wrote the foreword. "If the public take advantage of the design opportunities offered here, our towns and cities will be better places in which to live and work," he says.

New Architects: A Guide to Britain's Best Young Architectural Practices lists 83 of the "most talented" practices in Britain today. Unofficially, a list of the ten most mould-breaking architects has emerged among architectural insiders, headed by the London practice Hudson Featherstone, which has won accolades from both the Royal Fine Art Commission and the Civic Trust.

The other top practices include Brookes Stacey Randall, FAT (Fashion, Architecture, Taste), Page & Park, Patel Taylor, Peter Barber, Sauerbruch Hutton and Vaughan & Melhenny, but the Foundation itself refuses to say anything about these names because it believes it would be invidious to comment.

Richard Rogers, the chairman of the Architecture Foundation, says: "The opportu-



Ty Isaf barn in North Wales, designed by Patel Taylor

ities for shaping our built environment have never been greater. It is important that we encourage the rich scene by promoting the best of the next generation."

For all the talk of a renaissance in our architecture, the big housebuilders remain a target. Critics cite the "Tudor-bethan" pastiche homes. But builders employ architects, too, and at least some are doing their bit to provide better design.

Top of the class is Redrow Homes, which over the past year has transformed a former barracks, a warehouse and a children's home into architecturally sophisticated new flats with high ceilings and elegant detailing. In customer satisfaction surveys, 95 per cent of buyers said they would recommend the firm to a friend. Among its best schemes is Marine Gate, a former army barracks in Southsea, Portsmouth, which has been converted into flats.

Barratt is known for its chocolate-box, low-rise housing, but in London's Docklands it is building Pierhead

Lock, a £20-million glass high-rise development of luxury flats. Leicester-based David Wilson Homes takes design seriously, too, and has appointed an architect to evaluate all its house types. Buyers also enjoy added extras such as being consulted on interiors.

Persimmon Homes and Fairview Homes get honourable mentions as well for new and architecturally interesting designs. Since buying Ideal Homes in February 1996, Persimmon has raised its profile with new designs and flats in Docklands.

The entries for the directory were vetted by two panels of architectural movers and shakers headed by David Chipperfield, who designed the new rowing museum at Henley, and Kirsty Wark, the *Newsnight* presenter, supported by two researchers from the Foundation.

Most of the "top ten" architects work on private commissions — mainly residential work — and feature modernist designs preoccupied with daylight and transparency. The materials used are promoted



Louisa Hutton, an architect with Sauerbruch Hutton, sitting in the London home she designed for herself

as much as the design. Clear, frameless glazed glass is a particular favourite right now, as is environmentally friendly timber in its natural form.

Lucy Musgrove, the Foundation's director, says: "We wanted people to be aware of the younger generation of talent. British architecture is not just about Norman Foster and Richard Rogers. This list is for everyone, from those wishing to extend their bathrooms to those working on the Royal Opera House."

Hudson Featherstone, which specialises in small-scale work such as houses, schools and nightclubs, was formed five years ago by Anthony Hudson and Sarah Featherstone. It rapidly established a reputation for modern and innovative design, winning the Royal Fine Art Commission & Sunday Times Building of the Year Award for Baggy House in 1995, and a Civic Trust Award in 1996.

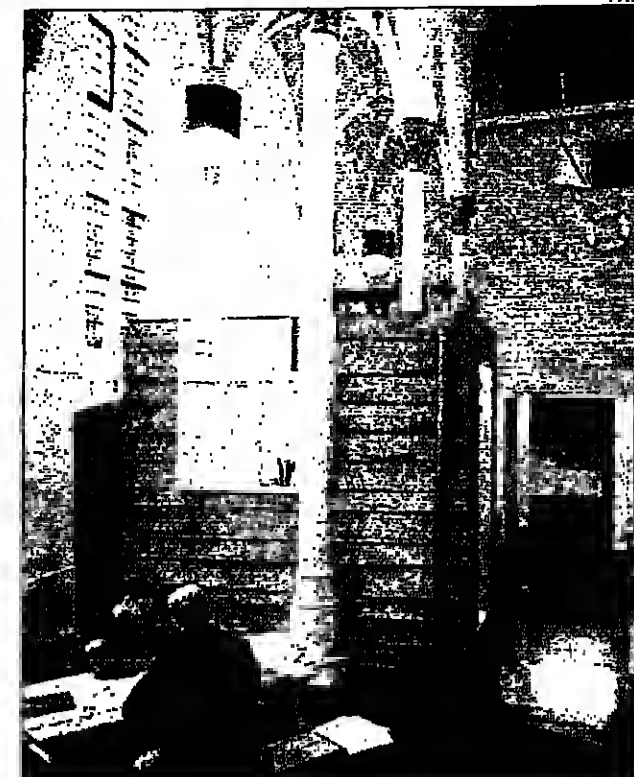
Page & Plant Architects, in Glasgow, focuses on urban

design, planning projects and the conversion of historic buildings. It is noted for "combining a sensitive feel for issues of architectural identity and continuity with a commitment to contemporary internationalism".

One of the most intriguing practices is FAT, a highly creative and often provocative team headed by four architects and an artist. Its work ranges from designs for leisure environments to residential and office space.

The directory praises the group's dedication to "using and re-using conventional objects and materials in unexpected and imaginative ways which are understandable to the lay world".

Louisa Hutton, of Sauerbruch Hutton Architects, says that with the "new breed" of architects, public awareness of the art is growing. "People have been unaware of the capacity of architecture to solve problems and make life better. We aim to bring out the positive values of any situation. It is about optimism for the future."



A church conversion by the innovative FAT team

## Diary of a househunter

### MONDAY

We are smarting from the sealed bid experience: three couples jumping over each other to buy a little two-bedroom flat in Earlsfield. We walked away because we do not have even our mortgage in place yet.

### TUESDAY

Decide to go with mortgage broker John Charcol in the hope that it might do a good job presenting our financial situation to the lender.

### WEDNESDAY

Assemble bank statements, tax references, payslips and P60s. We hope to borrow £95,000 with a £5,000 deposit — a 95 per cent mortgage.



### THURSDAY

John Charcol says the Portman Building Society will give us a mortgage, if we keep within our overdraft limits for the next two months. We cannot wait that long.

### FRIDAY


My brother-in-law calls to say he has spotted the perfect three-bedroom house for us in Tooting for £110,000.

He is flat-hunting, too. He could not resist selling his flat in Battersea, South London, bought for £99,000 eight months ago, for £125,000. He got the asking price in two days.


EMMA MAHONY  
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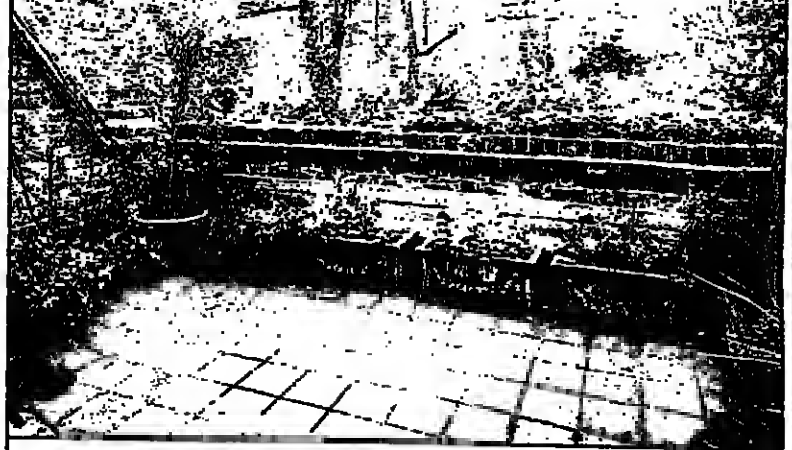
**HAMPSHIRE - Froxfield**  
An exceptional, listed, 18th century country house, beautifully appointed with a cottage, excellent leisure facilities and an grounds overlooking countryside. 7 beds, 3 baths, shower rm, 5 recep, outbuildings, swimming pool, tennis court and paddocks. About 2.58 ha (6.38 acres).  
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**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - Winslow** For sale as a whole Price Guide: £800,000  
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A dynamic chap ensures that the garden of Moët Hennessy's chairman is full of fizz, says Jane Owen



GILL ALLEN

Viscount Marchwood with Cyril Ray, 87, who looks after his large garden near Didcot, Oxfordshire. "You can see who's in charge here," says Lord Marchwood

# My own Ray of sunshine

Courage and confidence are not qualities that would normally fall Viscount Marchwood (Winchester, the Blues and Royals and now chairman of Moët Hennessy UK). But facing the prospect of telling his 87-year-old gardener that he wanted to replace the vegetable garden with a swimming pool, the peer gives the impression he would rather have been leaping blood in the boardroom.

"Cyril is the best thing in this garden. He has been here 26 years. The vegetable garden is very much his and I could hardly bring myself to formulate the words about the swimming pool. Finally, when I did, he said, 'Bloody good idea.' I was so relieved."

Cyril Ray appeared in the Marchwood's life 26 years ago. "I was working in the garden when Cyril walked up and said that because some people he worked for were moving from the village, he was coming to work for me. I said: 'How nice. Do tell me your name.'"

"I suggested that we give it a try for two mornings a week. Cyril said no, he would come three mornings a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. And that was that."

Mr Ray comes into view. He proceeds to give Lord Marchwood gentle grief about various aspects of the garden — something to do with fencing and then a suggestion about mixing roses with massed dahlias, partly to suppress weeds. Lord Marchwood is pacing a bed which curves around an ornamental pond, explaining that he wants the edges tidied up. Mr Ray appears to ignore this, grins, and talks about fencing and the price of vegetable seed.

"You can see who's in charge here," says Lord Marchwood. This double act will take on a new momentum in June when Lord Marchwood retires from Moët Hennessy but stays on as non-executive chairman for two days a week. He intends to pick up other work but, between tennis, cricket, golf and shooting he is determined to devote one whole day a week to gardening, with Mr Ray as his tutor. Mr Ray seems to find the project

## ME AND MY GARDEN: VISCOUNT MARCHWOOD



A curved flowerbed surrounds the lily pond. The garden is designed to be as welcoming as possible

hilarious but Lord Marchwood has already made his first herbaceous border in front of the hedge at the front of the 18th-century red-brick house near Didcot, Oxfordshire. He has plans for the rest of the garden which, in his words, has "gone backwards" over the past few years during his late wife's long illness.

She had been the main creator of their two-and-a-half-acre garden. "I was the willing but unskilled labour at the weekends," says Lord Marchwood, who enjoys weeding.

Lord Marchwood has decided he will stay on in the house, despite the fact that it is large for one person, but will install a swimming pool and revamp the tennis court and cricket nets. "I want to make it as attractive and amusing a place as possible for the family to come to."

The bones of the main garden will remain, down to the conservatory

which was added a few years ago. Lord Marchwood is responsible for planting the conservatory which is thick with the scent of jasmine. He also put in plumbago, stephanos and bougainvillea. The conservatory, like the rest of the garden, is people-friendly and this is where the family sometimes eats.

In the height of summer, meals move out to a stone terrace around the conservatory. Beyond is lawn bordered by mature trees and, at its centre, a circular pond surrounded by box and bergamot with a fountain head in the shape of Eros at its centre.

Lord Marchwood's only gripe with the garden is its chalky soil which prevents him growing azaleas. One bright splash of colour in the garden, however, comes from a gnome on the lawn in front of a cottage in the

grounds where Lord Marchwood's brother sometimes stays. "I put it there to irritate him," says the peer.

A stone owl looks through the undergrowth on to the lawn outside the main house and two large yew balls stand sentry beside a white-painted iron bench. To the right of the pond is a long shrubbery which will be tidied up after the swimming pool has been added.

Old brick walls, beech and cypress hedges divide the garden. To the front of the house Lord Marchwood has recently arranged for some vast chestnuts to be pollarded which has transformed this part of the garden from shade to light. A magnificent old beech tree stands to one side of the lawn and, directly in front of the house, a series of box-edged beds brim with wallflowers. Beyond the tennis court is an apple orchard with a mulberry tree



The gnome designed to annoy

and, opposite, a small greenhouse stuffed with geraniums, tomatoes and summer bedding sown by Mr Ray.

The garden is, in every sense, an entertaining place. A marquise was put up nine years ago for a joint 21st for Lord Marchwood's sons and his 25th wedding anniversary. The next big celebration will probably be on New Year's Eve 1999. This will be well lubricated by Moët et Chandon brut imperial vintage 1990, "because it is a fantastic year," says Lord Marchwood.

And yes, champagne is a fairly regular part of Lord Marchwood's diet because, on top of the small matter of getting the figures right and running Moët Hennessy in this country, the peer has to do a certain amount of entertaining to maintain Moët's image.

Well, someone has to.

# Make life easier at the cutting edge

Stephen Anderton delves into the secrets of a handsome lawn

Perfect green-baize lawns with ragged edges look pretty silly. It is tempting to think that around more laissez-faire lawn surfaces the edging might not matter so much. But it does. The better a lawn edge is kept, the more latitude it allows you to enjoy a less perfect surface to the turf.

What is a lawn, after all? A green plinth upon which sit the colourful extravagances of the garden? A clean uncomplicated plane, defining the open space it occupies? Or a rolling, sculpted surface of turf-banks, terraces and paths? However you use lawn (as opposed to meadow grass), its power will always be enhanced by the definition of its edges.



Wood is the cheapest edging

But how to keep edges right and clean without too much work? It is a perennial problem. Where lawn meets hard paving, the problem is easily solved. If the paving is set at virtually the same level as the grass, you can let the mower oversail and cut most of the grass which tries to lie on the paving. Rotary mowers are better at lifting the blades of grass up to the cutters.

If the turf is higher than the paving, then there is a thin and difficult vertical turf edge to be cut with shears — an edge often not deep enough to allow you to get the lower blade of the shears under the grass. If the turf is lower than the paving, the machine cannot oversail and the cutters leave an uncut strip against the paving. Some gardeners then cut back the turf from the paving; it leaves a clumsy trough into which the edge clippings fall, and which has itself to be weeded.

**A lawn will always be enhanced by its edges**

Harder edges to keep clean are those where turf meets border, where the grass can grow into the adjacent soil. Here again it is always necessary to have enough of a vertical edge to the turf so you can easily get the lower blade of the shears underneath. A couple of inches will do. Edges that are higher are likely to crumble on light soils.

There are various hard edgings available to ensure easily-cut straight edges. Wood is the cheapest. Pressure-treated wooden (fencing) rails 12ft by 3in by 1in work out at around £1 per foot. They are fixed at 3ft intervals to 16in posts, and the posts go on the inside (turf side) of the rail. The rail is set so that its top is an inch below the surface of the turf. After the first few months, the turf will spread over the thickness of the rail and hide it, but it will still be there underneath, holding soil back from the path or roots from the border, and giving you a firm edge to cut against. Pressure-treated wood can last up to 20 years but it is not easy to fit, or to take round bends.

Gardeners with a great deal of edging may like to look at an automated edge cutter such as the Andrews Spin Trim, a pull-along edger powered by rechargeable batteries. It has been around for years and hums away quietly as it works. On edges lined with wood it makes an excellent fast job of trimming.

There are many concrete edgings on the market, plain or with pseudo-Victorian rope-effect. Prices are in the region of £2.50 per foot. They work well enough when separating a gravel path from a border, but would produce the same problems as other paved edges when used next to turf.

A promising metal lawn edging, known as Ever Edge, has come on the market. It comes in 1m lengths with integral support spikes, and starts

at about £1.40 per metre. The finish is galvanised, with a discreet dark brown on top. To install it, a new edge is cut on the lawn and the edging is set tight against the edge and knocked down with a mallet to just below the surface of the turf, and the sections are locked together neatly.

It can be bent to follow a curve sweetly enough, and it is perforated to allow for tight right angles. It is available in three heights. I found it easy enough to install except in stony ground, where the spikes needed holes cleared for them first.

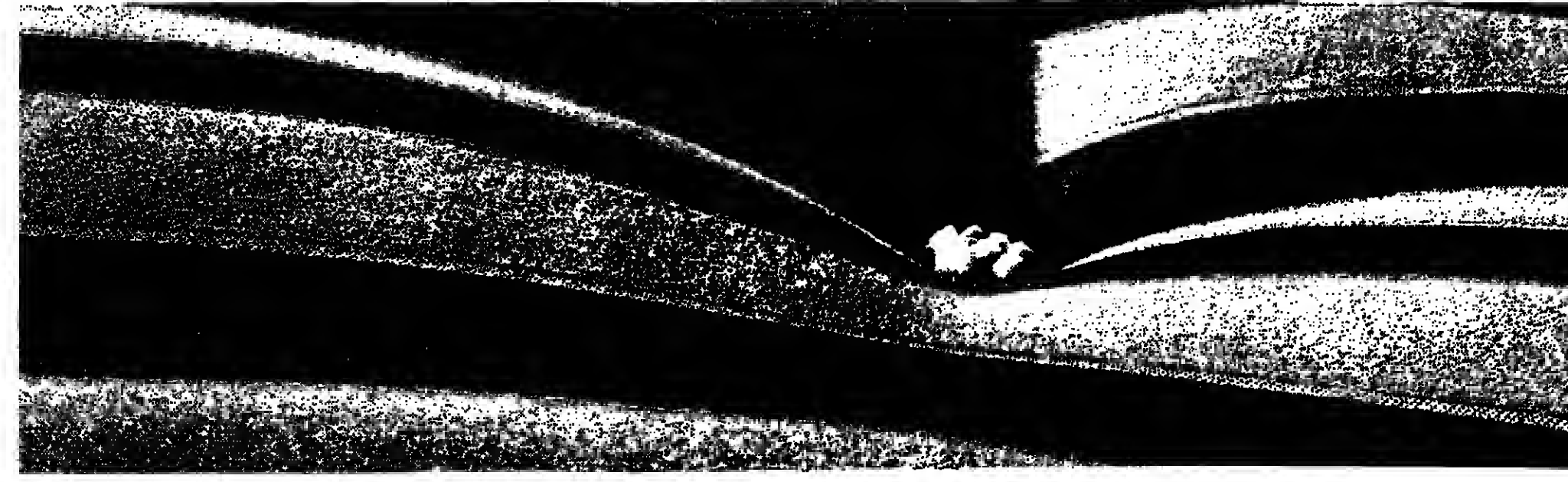
For a lawn which needs a tight, easily maintained edge, the product looks like good news. I doubt whether it would completely withstand life beside a drive, although if an occasional errant tyre put a piece out of line, it is easy enough to unlock a section and put it straight.

Ever Edge, PO Box 333, Market Drayton TF9 2HG (01332 349601). Minimum quantity sold is five metres.

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# Beware of what you are plotting

Rachel Kelly warns of the hidden dangers of extending your garden

For many it is a dream come true. Buy the unused field at the end of the property, lay a lawn, plant some flowerbeds, and your home has a garden big enough for the kids to play at one end and the grown-ups to relax in peace at the other.

But planners are warning that those who extend their gardens into adjacent agricultural land, without planning permission, risk having to plough up their patios. And controls are likely to be tightened as concern grows about the loss of green fields to concrete and bricks.

The Government has dropped its predecessor's proposals to relax planning controls to ensure the countryside does not become urbanised. The Council for the Protection of Rural England, worried about the loss of rural landscape, is keen to limit the construction of garden furniture, buildings and fencing. Home owners are increasingly left confused and bewildered by a myriad of planning regulations.

The garden dilemma is part of a wider confusion about planning controls generally. Richard Carslake is an Exeter chartered surveyor who is in the midst of investigating whether or not he should seek permission to build a stable for his children's ponies beside his home in Devon.

It is unclear whether the area on which he wants to build is defined as garden or agricultural land. Similar con-

fusion surrounds stables which can be classed as either domestic or agricultural buildings.

If the land and stables are defined as agricultural Mr Carslake will require planning permission, otherwise he may not. He says: "I don't want to pay the planning application fee unless I have to."

Planning fees have increased dramatically in the past few years since they were established in the 1960s. The lowest fee for planning applications for gardens, originally £32, rose to £95 last October. But fees do not usually dissuade homeowners from omitting to make applications, says David Rose from the planning regulator, the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). Sometimes people do not apply deliberately.

Glyn Thomas is a senior planning officer from East Devon District Council. He cites a case in which a woman built ornamental bridges, a dovecote and a summerhouse in her garden without permission.

"It was almost a town park," he says, although she was given advice in 1985 and knew she needed planning permission. The woman attracted considerable public support and, since building had taken place over a long time, the council granted her retrospective planning permission in 1986.



Having spent £10,000 on turning a rubbish dump into a garden, retired couple Martin and Pauline Leadley have been ordered to plough it up after a planning dispute

Other people are not always so lucky. A retired Nottinghamshire couple, Martin and Pauline Leadley, spent almost £10,000 turning a rubbish tip into a garden — only to be ordered to plough it up last December. In other cases, people apply for planning permission but build more than they are supposed to.

A couple in the village of Foxhill in Eden in the Lake District are currently appealing against the National Park Authority's ruling to force them to turn the garden they built without planning permission into a field.

Mr and Mrs Dixon applied for planning permission in 1992 to demolish and rehabilitate a house and barn, but did not receive consent to alter the garden which they subsequently extended on to a field, raising the level of the sloping land to build a flat lawn for their children to play on.

The Dillons' surveyor, Richard Moss, speaking on their behalf, says: "If they didn't

## 'It's unclear what needs planning permission'

have this extra bit of land they would have no land at all for their children to play on. When you consider the size of the Lake District, the loss of a few yards of land to a garden is not a major crime, really."

In the absence of legislation, piecemeal steps are being taken to halt the march from green to brown. New local authority brochures will address the public lack of awareness about the planning process. The brochures, produced by the RTPI, will highlight the little-known fact that planning permission is required to extend your garden.

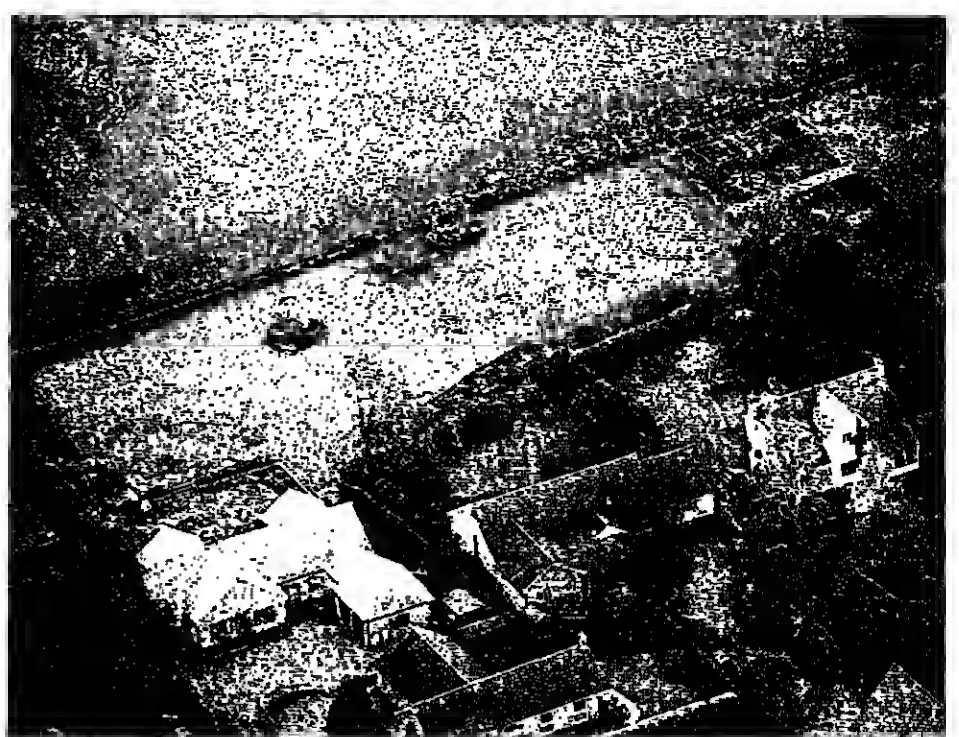
Among other things, the leaflets illustrate how to object to a planning application, what to do if you are refused

planning permission and how to apply for permission to build a granny annexe or a swimming pool.

Mr Rose says: "The planning process is complicated. It's not clear what needs permission and what doesn't. We are doing things to make it easier, including the development of interactive kiosks. They would work in a similar way to tax self-assessment forms, with people assessing whether or not they need planning permission. This shouldn't be beyond the technology of the next century."

Such efforts will go some way to preventing patios and rose bushes from impinging too much upon the rural landscape. But people planning to alter their garden should contact their council planning department to ascertain whether or not planning permission is necessary.

A leaflet reprinted by the Government, Planning Permission: the Homeowner's Guide, is available from 0870 122 6226.



An aerial view of the Leadleys' landscaped one-acre garden in Nottinghamshire

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Thirty years after he was sent by *The Times* to the Amazon, Anthony Smith returns to find vast changes



The Xavante Indians used cunning methods to stand up for their culture

# The Indians who saw off the settlers

Amazonia is huge. It is home to a tenth, a fifth, maybe even half of the world's species. In the past three months an area of rainforest the size of Belgium has been destroyed by fire. This month it was announced that an area the size of the United Kingdom had been saved from loggers, slashers and burners.

But as we juggle entire European countries to try to explain the vast scale and significance of the Amazon basin, we tend to lose sight of the details — and we can learn much from the details.

In the late 1960s I went with a British scientific expedition, largely sponsored by *The Times*, to the Mato Grosso, the vast southern province where Brazil borders Paraguay. A brand-new road took us to a tiny settlement surrounded by virgin forest. It was called Xavantina, a poignant homage to the formidable Xavante people who, equipped with arrows, clubs and guile, had kept the modern world at bay until the 1940s.

From our camp further up the new road we never saw an Indian. Many had succumbed to influenza, missionaries or alcohol in the frontier townships; the remnants, granted land reserves by Brasilia, maintained pathetic replicas of their former ways.

I went to visit one village with a doctor who was interested in stress hormones, and needed to collect urine samples. From the huts came steady coughing. Chest infec-

## Preparing a venture into the Mato Grosso

From Anthony Smith, Xavantina, Brazil

Together with a staff photographer, Anthony Smith is making a second visit to the camp of the Xavante Indians in the Mato Grosso. In this first approach he describes the preparations for a river trip to the Indian reservations in the Xavante National Park. In later approaches he will report on the progress of the expedition exclusively to *The Times*.

In one of our first meetings in Xavantina, Brazil, I met a young man named Paulo. He was a member of the Xavante tribe, and he was very interested in the expedition. He had been to school in Brasilia, and he had learned a lot about the world. He was very curious about the expedition, and he wanted to know more about it. He was very friendly and he was very helpful. He showed us around the camp and he showed us the things that he had made. He was very proud of his work and he was very happy to show it to us.

Anthony Smith's report published in the 1960s

tions were rife: spleens were rock-hard from malaria, and some of the women had ceased menstruating long before their time. The children were few and subdued. Men fished in desultory style, in the middle of its compound seemed emblematic of their sorry state.

So it was with curiosity but no great optimism that I recently returned to Xavantina. My first surprise was to find the small settlement grown into a town of 27,000 people. My second was the Indians.

In the villages there were children — and fully inflated footballs — everywhere. The huts looked good, without signs of sickness. The men were all out hunting, and had been for some days. Only when the children turned away, tired of newcomer novelty, did I see that each had football team number chalked

on his brown skin. The number 10 was favourite.

I learned that gradually the Indians, after years of pointless sullenness and hostility, had realised that they needed to be cunning if they were to survive. They decided to stand up for their inherited culture. They sent some youngsters to school to learn how best to survive, how to read and speak Portuguese properly, and how to understand edicts from Brasilia. It was these youngsters who then initiated wiser policies.

For example, where settlers had encroached on to the Xavante reserve, the Indians offered assistance, planting one or two individuals in every homestead. Then, on a pre-

arranged date and in the middle of the night, these young men hid every gun and then instructed the settlers to leave. Knowing what refusal would entail, the settlers had no choice. Brasilia, far from being antagonised, tacitly approved of this peaceful resolution.

Pride was returning to the Indian villages; old rituals were re-established. The initiation ceremony of boys standing in water and eating only rice for two weeks to mark their transition to manhood was re-established. So was hunting rather than fishing ("which is not the Xavante way"). They stopped using dogs, for that too is not their way (and is far too easy) and now track their prey themselves.

One evening, as we sat around the campus of the university at Xavantina, a group of 30 Indian men suddenly arrived. One went to the microphone, used it correctly and told us (in excellent Portuguese) that they would dance to show us they had a culture worthy of preservation. We could join in if we

wished — and many did. No money changed hands and, when the dancing finished, they left.

While the revitalised pride and self-assurance of the Xavante is evident, the status — and future — of the surrounding countryside is not so clear. Around the Indian reserve — an area about half the size of Wales — huge tracts had been sold by the Government in million-acre plots.

Even at a dollar or less per acre, this kind of sale was aimed at institutional investors. The way they recouped their investment was simple: install a couple of dozen men; fell the softer trees; set fire to several thousand devastated acres during the August dry season; repeat the process one year later; scatter grass seed on the black terrain; bring in the cows.

It is sad to see the forest disappear. But equally sad is the disappearance of the cerrado which is vanishing faster than forest. This form of tree cover, usually and imprecisely referred to as savanna, is less exciting than forest, less extraordinary to European eyes, and less of a hindrance to development. But it is also just as rich as the forest in species

— though its flora and fauna are less conspicuous.

Cerrado looks more like an unkempt orchard, with the trees twisted and short, with dry leaf litter exposed to the sun, and with more plants growing contentedly at ground level than is ever possible in a forest. Unfortunately, because cattle can be introduced without any clearance, and because conservationists care much less about cerrado, it is disappearing far faster than the forest.

In the past 25 years about a third of Brazil's cerrado — 270,000 square miles — has been transformed for agriculture (England is 50,000 square miles). Simultaneously, about 150,000 square miles of Amazonian forest has been altered, a loss much lamented by many who should be no less concerned by the even faster vanishing of cerrado.

It happens that the Xavante reserve is in cerrado country. Consequently their efforts to maintain their culture should be doubly applauded. They are not only maintaining themselves and their way of life, but also the style of landscape which they hunt in with such skill and which, nowadays, they safeguard from encroachment with such cunning.



In the past 25 years about a third of the Amazonian rainforest has been chopped down, burned and converted into agricultural land



When forest disappears, so do plants and animals

# Back to basics for Africa's future

Clive Fewins on an organic farm where Ugandan students learn skills to help their country grow

To the more observant of the hundreds of walkers striding along the Ridgeway, the ancient track that runs along the Berkshire and Wiltshire Downs, Warren Farm must look slightly odd. After all, few British farms have crops of sorghum, yams, cassava and millet.

The reason these African staples are being tended on an eight-acre smallholding near Streteley is simple enough. Warren Farm is the training centre of Kulika (the name means "congratulations" in Luganda, one of the chief languages of Uganda), a Surrey-based charitable trust, which grants scholarships to East African students, and teaches them the principles of sustainable agriculture.

Since Warren Farm opened in 1993, 30 African farmers, mostly Ugandans, have attended seven-month courses to improve their knowledge of growing crops, and animal husbandry. The philosophy is simple: "Warren Farm functions organically. We try to give East African farmers advice on how to make their smallholdings more productive and sustainable," says Andrew Jones, the director of the trust.

The students arrive in March and stay until mid-October. Their days are divided between classroom instruction and practical sessions on the farm. They leave with a diploma in sustainable agriculture from the University of Reading, which assists the trust with the teaching.

The idea is that the students should return to their native country and pass on their knowledge to farmers. "Most people on nearby farms are keen to learn from the students," says farm manager Alastair Taylor, 36, an agriculturalist who spent six years in Uganda. "Kulika has a sister organ-



Two students get to work weeding and hoeing at Warren Farm

ization in Uganda that helps farmers resettle back home, attends to the welfare of their families while they are here, and guides them as 'key trainers'.

"Uganda covers a slightly smaller area than the UK — and most of the population of 21 million is involved in agriculture. Most of the farms are small family affairs that often support extended families of 16 people.

"There is a great upsurge of interest in organic farming in Uganda. People believe it has a role to play in rebuilding the country after the years of war and genocide which lasted until 1986. Farming in Uganda was always organic, but lots of agrochemicals were introduced in the 1960s. The small farmers, like the students that come here, cannot afford expensive chemicals. Fortunately, they now realise that while chemicals help

produce higher yields of nicer-looking crops in the short term, new pests and diseases that were kept in balance emerge. They also fear for the fertility of their soil.

"The view of the Ugandan Government is that, if managed in a sustainable, organic fashion these small farms can generate enough food, for the families they support."

The teaching at Warren Farm concentrates on organic techniques — especially composting, soil conservation and use of water, and organic methods of pest control.

"So often these people have not been doing simple things like feeding surplus legumes to animals or not rotating their crops — all through lack of basic knowledge," says Mr Taylor. Already one past student, Josephine Kizza, has turned her farm in Uganda

into a teaching establishment and President Yoweri Museveni has visited it. "In 1996/97 she had 13,000 visitors. Ugandan farmers are so keen to absorb knowledge," Mr Jones says.

One of the students on the Warren Farm course, Waludde Mutwabili, says: "From what I am learning here I could feed my wife and seven children from one of my eight acres and sell the surplus from the other seven."

Another, Timothy Njakasi, says: "At home we lack marketing skills. Here we are learning all about the processing and storage of foods. If I can apply this knowledge back home I shall be more in control of my markets, and more prosperous. If we can teach our neighbours these techniques it will make a difference to our economy."

As well as learning cultivation and animal husbandry, the students are taught marketing skills, and given instruction in "appropriate technology" to help to make their smallholdings more self-sufficient. These include lessons in how to make a solar drier as an aid to storing crops, and building ferro-concrete tanks in which to store water.

However, all this is likely to end within two years, as the Kulika teaching programme is to be transferred to Uganda. "We have been a victim of our own success," says Mr Jones. "We have received a three-year £97,000 National Lottery grant which will enable us to operate 12-month courses on 20 farms in Uganda. The tutors will travel round the farms."

By 2000, therefore, Warren Farm is likely to become redundant. However, chairman Patricia Brennkmeier, who founded Kulika in 1981 after working as a social worker in Uganda, hopes to find the money to continue the work of the farm.

"There is no reason it could not work for another country," she says. "We'd love to continue the farm work, but nearly all our funds will go to educational work in Uganda and we cannot afford to run the two."

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# Can I have my car back?



The Leathley family soon found that without a car, movements were dictated by timetables

Like so many brilliant wheezes inspired by a lively Saturday night's drinking, the idea of abandoning car travel for a month seemed to make good sense.

Over the evening I had cursed the cost of driving, ranted about the appalling traffic and bemoaned the fact that our car rarely left the garage during the week. Warning to my theme as more glasses were drained, I decided that we could easily do without a car altogether.

And since we were planning to trade in the car anyway, I could actually test my thesis. I got rid of it a month early to try and survive the co-ordinated public transport policy that John Prescott has been exhorting us to use. I also had my trusty bicycle.

Now, five weeks later, I admit that I was wrong. My bicycle was stolen, my family was drenched in downpours and I discovered that the vagaries of rail and bus timetables are not for the faint-hearted. Giving up the car is simply a tribulation too far.

Let me explain: we are not single-minded Greens devoted to the salvation of the planet, nor are we locked snugly into a city-centre culture with plentiful bus, train and Tube services to hand.

We live in Brentwood, an Essex commuter town 25 miles from London. A regular train service into London caters for the carless commuter. Otherwise our transport needs and services are much the same as millions of town-dwelling families across the country.

My wife, Heather, works part-time a mile from home and our two-year-old daughter, Madeleine, has a child minder a similar distance away, and the train station is a short bike ride. For two able-bodied adults, none of the journeys seemed especially taxing, armed with bicycles and a child seat.

One of our first tasks was to rearrange the diary. Being carless means a seriously constricted social life, so a number of dinner parties had to go.

We decided, for instance, against a Saturday-night outing that involved trekking across London with a toddler in tow. So we hurriedly rearranged the social fixture list with as many "away" dinners rescheduled as "home" dates as we could manage.

The experiment began inauspiciously. Heather announced that her return flight from Hong Kong, where she was visiting her sister, landed at Heathrow, some 50 miles across London, at 4am. Could I pick her up?

Under normal circumstances, of course, I would have willingly dragged myself and daughter out of bed at 2.30am, but her return coincided with the first day of carlessness. So I had to decline.



Arthur Leathley sails through congested streets but irritates train passengers with his bicycle

## Arthur Leathley finds family life without a car in a town 25 miles from London is simply a tribulation too far

So Heather arrived at the front door at 7am, soaked and exhausted after lugging her suitcase on trains and Tubes across London, before the final uphill struggle, in a downpour, from a station devoid of taxis.

The vision of Heather dripping wet on the doorstep, confirmed my fear — that she and Madeleine would bear the brunt of this barny experiment. But I would also do my bit. Although most of my weekday travelling could be limited to relatively painless commuter journeys, the bicycle would take the place of taxis around central London.

The hardest part is to take a bicycle into London in the first place, now that guards' vans have disappeared. Modern, sliding-door trains make for trouble, ensuring that cyclists irritate passengers by parking their cumbersome machines in the aisles, and with their complex manoeuvres in avoid being crushed. But once in the capital, there is satisfaction in cruising past stationary traffic, even in the rain.

However, after only a few days

disaster struck. The National Film Theatre is one of London's less accessible cultural venues, but I happily free-wheeled my bike only feet from the theatre door, and locked it to a bikestand.

Two hours later, as customers left to hail the phalanx of waiting taxis, I found only the severed remnants of a cable lock where earlier a bicycle had stood. I left in search of a cab, clutching my redundant cycle helmet. Suddenly, from being a one-car, two-bicycle family, we were down to one bike.

Supermarket shopping is quite awful without a car. But home deliveries came to our rescue. Our local Tesco has recently experimented with home deliveries. Frankly, it could not have been easier. For an extra £5, fading through an order of a month's supplies brought a vanload of goods to our door and almost all were the ones we'd ordered.

Spontaneously disappears without a car. You can't just pop anywhere when your movements are dictated by the time of the next 91 bus, nor do you willingly arrange anything

that takes you out and about beyond 11pm. We were appalled to discover that Sunday bus travel in our area is non-existent. The minor pleasures of life, such as playing golf or visiting friends five miles away, suddenly become onerous challenges, and are swiftly cut-to-a minimum.

Days out take on a fresh sense of adventure. We had planned to spend a weekend in Suffolk, with our bikes, but the uncertainties of Sunday train travel cut back our mission to a day-trip to Woodbridge.

The train trip and the longer-than-expected return cycle ride from Ipswich to Woodbridge were fun, if only for novelty value. And it was actually more relaxing than having to strap an unwilling daughter into a car seat, then keep her happy with endless nursery rhyme cassette tapes.

The drawback was that Ipswich Town football team were at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers, whose supporters are among the more lively in the Nationwide league. We didn't want to share their train so we left Ipswich hurriedly before the match ended.

The sorts of cars I can afford do not excite me. Yet, for the first time, I actually looked forward to picking up the modest Peugeot hatchback that would again afford me impromptu trips and disorganisation. We have now agreed to cut out any car journeys under two miles, weather permitting. Admittedly, it's a modest contribution towards reducing car use, but a contribution.

## 'Dinner parties had to go, my bicycle was stolen, my family was drenched'

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CHANGING TIMES

## Don't just talk to yourself

### Support groups for lonely home workers are booming

When Joyce Quarrie, 47, started working from home as a freelance editor, she was prepared for the insecurity of being self-employed. What she wasn't prepared for was being alone all day. "It was very lonely," Joyce recalls. "I live by myself and I found that without the lunch breaks and informal chats of an office I could go two or three days without speaking to anybody. There was also none of the buzz you get from having other people around."

Despite the higher costs, Joyce moved into a business unit as soon as she could. "It's made a great difference to my morale," she says. "There's a central eating area, so you get to know other people over sandwiches and it's great to have the option of going out for a drink after work. I like a bustling office atmosphere. Working from home isn't for me."

About four million people work from home and numbers are set to increase as teleworking becomes more common. Although escaping from the commuter run sounds like a boon (we spend 1.8 years of our life waiting at traffic lights but only nine months talking to our families), isolation is a big problem for home-workers. A survey for the magazine *Home Run* found this was rated as the greatest drawback — although that is not surprising when you consider how much of the office day is taken up with office politics, intrigue and gossip around the coffee machine.

Stephen Gaymer, 46, a desktop publisher working from home in Oxfordshire, believes he has come up with a solution. He has set up a social group in his area for those working from home. This week Home Aloners, which boasts a thriving membership of more than 300 (including accountants, architects and a clock repairer), celebrates its second birthday with a big knees-up. Stephen plans to



Stephen Gaymer set up Home Aloners two years ago

expand it into a national network.

He started the group "because I needed a forum where I could meet others in a similar position. My wife would come home with tales of office life and I felt I was missing out."

He placed an advertisement in the local newspaper asking for anybody working from home who didn't have an office Christmas party to attend to contact him. Six people turned up for the first lunch at a village pub and the word spread. Now the group meets once a month, hosts social events, such as bowling evenings, and a Christmas party, and has its own newsletter and

website. "People have contacted me from as far away as Hong Kong and Florida wanting to know how they can start one," says Stephen. "We work such long hours that work provides us with a community. When you work from home you need somewhere you can discuss not only business, but all the irrelevancies of life."

Tracy Avis, 34, says belonging to Home Aloners has made her working life much more enjoyable. A former interior designer, after the birth of her baby, "I'd always worked as part of a team, so it was unnerving to have nobody to gripe to. When my husband

### HOME ALONERS

Many Business-Links hold events where small businesses get together or listen to a speaker. You could also join your own professional or trade association and attend any meetings which interest you. The local Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and Round Table provide opportunities for networking as well as getting involved in local events and charities. You can get details through your library or Business Links. There are also organisations specifically geared to women such as Women in Management.

If you are teleworking for one employer, go into the office occasionally to keep abreast of gossip and developments which might not be mentioned over the phone.

Reading the notice-board can be revealing. Don't feel guilty about taking a lunch break or going for drinks after work. Home workers need time off.

Contact Stephen Gaymer on 01235 851065. Website: <http://homealoners.co.uk> E-mail: [Homealoners@btinternet.com](mailto:Homealoners@btinternet.com) Home run is on: 01291 641222. Website: <http://homerun.co.uk>.

came home, I'd pour out every detail of my day to him," she says. "Now I have people I can talk to."

Stephen feels that for a group to succeed there needs to be at least one person willing to organise it, several people working from home and a willingness to see the venture as a social event. However, he thinks there is enormous commercial potential — with Home Aloners able to arrange members' discounts and swap expertise. "Almost every town in Britain could have a group," he says.

SHARON MAXWELL MAGNUS

I should be...

## Pamper session for two

Joanna Pittman...  
designed...  
and...  
discuss...

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Stephen Hill and his wife Christine



'I should be having a week of violent social diversion, as I did in my 20s, not sitting about the place brooding'

# Too busy thinking 'bout my baby

I am half term, and Alexander has gone on a visit to some relations, leaving me alone in the house, without the faintest idea what to do with myself. I wander about the place, bereft, like some hopeless old ewe who has lost her lambs. If I go out, I am haunted by the idea that I have mislaid something terribly important. My handbag, say, or my keys. And when I am in, I find myself chatting animatedly to no one in particular, while brushing my teeth.

(Very good! Brush, brush, brush!) and bossing about items of furniture, chairs, pianos stools, anything smaller than me.

Good grief, I have even begun to miss Alexander's dreadful toy panda, with his unfurling muffled speech and arcane vocabulary. (I once asked Alexander what exactly were the poosies and pockies about which Mr P spoke so often and so mysteriously. The poosies, said Alexander, were Mr Panda's friends, and the pockies were his enemies. Or perhaps it was the other way around. Either way I was left not much the wiser.)

Well, this won't do. I am supposed to

be having a week of violent social diversion such as I used to enjoy in my 20s, not sitting about the place brooding. Perhaps I will call on Katie. I last saw her ten days ago at the Chelsea Flower Show. She was in the Highgrove Garden, a terrifying glare on her handsome features, wearing a T-shirt with the word "Highgrove" emblazoned across her magnificent bosom. I was fearfully taken with the Prince of Wales's bisected boat summer houses, with beautiful thoughts leered upon them in gold, and asked Katie where I might get some.

She narrowed her eyes. "People keep asking me that," she said. "And I don't know. They haven't told me. I feel a complete nit. I don't like Chelsea at all. Just look at all these people."

I knew exactly what she meant. There are aspects of Chelsea that I hate too, particularly its mean refusal to allow in children in pushchairs when the whole place is heaving with drooling 90-year-

olds in bathchairs whose behaviour — impossible to get within feet of the Lagerfeld garden for all the shoving — would disgrace a toddlers' tea party.

Hoping that by now she would have recovered her equilibrium, I banged at her front door. "Coming out for a night on the tiles?" I said. "Can't," replied Katie, in the smug tones of a new mimmy. "I have got to stay in and look after Rory and Isabel."

Rory and Isabel, it turns out, are her kittens. "Don't you start on about their names," warned Katie. "My mother has already said that everyone will think they are my children." Katie got them from a

## LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

cats' charity, whose representative, an imposing person called Mrs Leadbitter, brought them round in a cardboard box, accompanied by Mr Leadbitter, who was very small and smelt strongly of cat food. Before depositing the kittens, Mrs Leadbitter required Katie to sign a form on which she undertook to have them inoculated, not to allow them to procreate (especially not with each other, they are siblings), never to allow them out at night and to permit Mrs L unlimited access to the premises at all times to make spot checks on their wellbeing.

For slum children (they were born in

care), Rory and Isabel were remarkably personable. They hurtled out from behind the washing machine where they had set up home, climbed up our legs, digging in their sharp little claws, purred and were generally adorable. "Well," I said, eventually, detaching Rory from my knee with difficulty, "this is heaven, but it isn't a wild time. I had better go and find something disgraceful to do."

So I look myself off to the hairdresser where Todd, who has been cutting my hair for years, and whose mood can vary from taciturn to effusive depending on selenium levels, narrowed his eyes at me and said: "I'm thinking heavy fringe here. Yes, statement fringe, definitely. Goodbye to all that wispy business," and proceeded to put his words into immediate effect, drowning my squeaks of dismay with stories about his new best friend, the eminent painter who is going

to put Todd, unclotted but for a fuchsia loincloth, into the 20th *Deposition from the Cross* that a Spanish cathedral recently commissioned from him.

Later on, when I got in, the phone was ringing. It was Charles. "Lunch on Thursday?" he said. "Ooh, yeah," said I. "Where?" By Thursday I should have been able to do something to my fringe with mousse and the nail scissors so perhaps he would not laugh at it. "France," said Charles. "Crikey, well this is the sort of thing I think I really ought to be doing while Alexander is away." "Coo, Charlie," I said, all thrilled, "where in France?" "My House," said Charles. "Don't open it up very often. Gets musty, you see. Needs a good spring clean. We'll give it a really good going over and stop for a bite in the local café. They do a sort of fried camembert and chips. Quite good once you get used to it."

Hey ho. Well it's true I am the sort of girl who cannot see a sinkful of washing up without saying "Can I do you now, sir?" "Oh, go on, then," I say. "I'll meet you at the ferry. You will easily recognise me. I will be the girl with the statement fringe and the yellow rubber gloves."

# Pamper session for two

Joanna Pitman takes a break designed for expectant mothers and, below, meets a couple who dispense advice on childbirth

You are 34 weeks down, six to go and counting hard. You flop around in bed at night alternately hugging pillows and becoming intimately acquainted with the night-time view from your too window.

You are beginning to spend half your daytime hours on all fours, working, reading and eating while waggling your bottom in the air because it eases the back strains and is rumoured to get the baby into the right position on the runway. And you spend an undue amount of time worrying about those alarming industrial-size J-cloth knickers that a well-meaning friend has recommended for the post-partum period.

Now is the time to cash in your savings, get in a car and drive direct to a health resort for an intensive pamper session. The Great Expectations course at Champneys, for example, is designed for women at all stages of pregnancy and gives you a couple of nights in peaceful luxury in an 1874 country house set in 70 acres of parkland.

The only sounds are of birds, endless lawns being mown and a lile gentle croquet in the distance; and perhaps the odd discreet challenge from the staff: "Have you had your morning massage yet Madam, or would you prefer another rest?" With guests padding around in dressing gowns sipping cups of tea on verandahs and being courteously hustled towards each other, it feels like an upmarket sanatorium.

The first advantage is that you don't have to wear any clothes. You can discard those Queen Mother dresses and kangaroo pouch trousers, coddle yourself in a fluffy towel-wrapping robe and let the staff take care of you. For two days you are treated a bit like... well, a newborn baby. You are

rubbed down and cleansed, massaged and oiled, wrapped in warm, fluffy towels and ministered to by smiling young women in spotless white uniforms, sensible white shoes and watches pinned upside down on the bosom.

Your first appointment is with Sister, a no-nonsense matronly type who checks your blood pressure and fixes you with a steely eye to ask if and how much you drink and smoke. She then writes up your notes and puts a red sticker on your card if you are out of condition or pregnant — two if you are both.

Off you then trot for your solitary spa bath — ten minutes lying in warm pine essence and staring at the ceiling — and then half an hour in the darkened "tranquillity room" where you lie swaddled in towels and blankets on a special orthopaedic chair bed.

Swedish massage follows, a strong rub down of the arms, legs, shoulders and back, although you have to sit up for your back massage because nobody has yet invented the massage bed with stomach hole (with something resembling an entire watermelon attached to your front, you are beginning to wonder whether you will ever lie on your front again).

Then there is a bit of aromatherapy, a facial and finally the belly mask. The masseuse pastes cool green goo all over your belly as if icing a cake, leaves it to dry and then peels it off to reveal a smooth, baby-soft stomach freshly elasticated and able to fend off the stretch-mark assault — or so the theory goes. Fortunately you are not given the chance to examine the vast rubbery cast of your own stomach left behind afterwards.

As the hours passed at



Fiona Emanuel, a Champneys client, enjoys a belly mask that prevents stretch marks. Cool green paste is smoothed over the abdomen and left to dry before being peeled off

Champneys, I found it increasingly hard to stay awake. I drifted off during the massage, was barely aware of the facial, and between each treatment toddled back to my room for another snooze. And I slept 12 deep and dreamless hours at night. Stressed business executives doing hours of torture in the gym, trying to give up smoking or being wrapped in cling film and cooked in the name of shedding a few inches of excess fat, may not have such a relaxing time; but for

expectant mothers Champneys is the definition of heaven.

Lucknam Park, a grand country house hotel near Bath, also does a range of treatments for pregnant women. Its Top and Toe day package includes a special body massage, a course of aromatherapy, use of the pool and spa, facial, manicure and pedicure (handy for those of us who haven't seen our toes for some time).

And for really wealthy sybarites, Cliveden, the magnifi-

cent stately home hotel set in 376 acres of National Trust grounds on the Thames in Buckinghamshire, offers special health treatments for really bulbous third-trimester types. Its therapists and masseurs are trained in special massage techniques and treatments for the pregnant. The glorious views, good food and spectacular rooms at any of these establishments should bring a bloom to any expectant mother's face, although probably not their bank manager's.

## WAYS TO EASE THE PAIN DURING PREGNANCY AND LABOUR

MORE women are using complementary alternative therapies during pregnancy and labour. Here are a few.

- Yoga's stretching and breathing techniques can help indigestion, varicose veins, morning sickness and constipation. *British Wheel of Yoga (01529 306851)*
- Acupuncture can help morning sickness, constipation and backache. *The British Acupuncture Council (0181-964 0222)*
- Reflexology research shows that women

who received treatment prior to birth had shorter labour. *Association of Reflexologists (0990 673320)*

- Traditional Chinese medicine uses herbal remedies, eg chrysanthemum for hypertension. *Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine (0171-284 2898)*
- Aromatherapy is massage with essential oils. Avoid rosemary and chamomile. *International Federation of Aromatherapists (0181-742 2605)*

# Help - I'm having a baby



Professor Peter Hill and his wife Christine address the fears of first-time mothers

Two pregnant women overheard in the understaffed antenatal clinic of a London hospital, turning in desperation to the receptionist for advice: "Is it true that giving birth is like trying to force a grapefruit out through your nostrils?"

"More like a wardrobe door," replies the receptionist. "Now could you both join the end of the queue please?"

Any expectant mothers feeling anxious and unprepared should consider enrolling for classes with Christine Hill and her husband Professor Peter Hill. Christine runs antenatal and postnatal classes for women and Peter — as a sideline to his paediatric and adolescent psychiatric work — runs classes for parents worried about their toddlers' television addictions, feeding, sleeping or stimulation problems.

Christine is an obstetric physiotherapist with a concern for the apprehensions, fears and idiotic queries of first-time mothers. Every week more than 100 women pass through her classroom and she answers the same questions with reassurance, common sense and humour. "Some people still ring me up with all sorts of worries, years after their babies are born," she says. "Their marriages have broken up and they're pregnant by someone else, or they're crouched in the loo on the mobile phone wanting advice on how to get rid of their Gestapo-like child minder. The most intelligent and

capable women lose confidence when it comes to babies. I just try and lighten their load. Much of it is common sense."

All sorts of people swear by her but they all live in or near West London and have £400 to spare for nine two-hour lessons and unlimited telephone support. If you do not have a spare £400 and a home in London, buy the book, *Your New Baby*, by Christine and Peter Hill (Verminion, £3.99) — it is packed with sane advice.

In the first lesson the class is still in an acute state of denial and has refused to confront such alarming questions as the 56-hour labour, the incompetent anaesthetist and the burst stitches. But no question is too trivial. If your waters break in Sainsbury's, it is true that you are given the contents of your trolley for free and a year's supply of nappies? ("No.") What if my dog is upset by the baby's arrival? Christine deals with it all. She is frank, funny and never labours a point.

During the lessons, she guides her class through each stage of the birth in detail using diagrams, a plastic pelvis and floppy doll-cum-baby. You learn some physiology, you learn approximately what a contraction will feel like and how best to deal with it. She informs you about the various types of pain relief, runs through the possible complications and teaches you how to deal with just about any eventuality.

You learn how to get out of the bath without doing in your stomach muscles (hang on to the taps and pull yourself up), even how to deal with an overcrowded hospital on the day. "You might arrive at the labour ward, find it looks like a refugee camp and discover they've lost your notes. What you do is this..."

The classes equip women with information, and thereby confidence, so they can help themselves through whatever happens.

Christine is open-minded on breast versus bottle feeding, on babies sleeping in, beside, or far away from the bed and all the other minefields of conflicting opinion. "The most important thing is for the mother to do what feels right for her. She should go by her own instincts; in the end she is the one who knows best."

Much of her work is about overcoming psychological obstacles, but by the time you go into hospital you are organised and ready to unpack your husband, face spray, spare pillows and vacuum flask of ice cubes. You have mantras to recite, you are confident on the different forms of analgesia, and you know how to pant through an anterior lip. When you finally swing into action, you suddenly realise that the one drawback is that Christine is not going to have the baby for you.

If you find it hard to wean yourself off her classes, however, there is more to come from Peter Hill. A professor of psychiatry and a consultant in child and adolescent psychiatry at St George's Hospital, London, he also works with the parents of young children. Like Christine's, his job is also about dispelling anxieties, giving parents information — a lot of it common sense backed up with hard scientific evidence — that will help them to see which are sensible parenting practices and which are not.

"One of my roles is to dispel some of the myths. For example, do the first few days of bonding — or not bonding — affect the child for the next 20 years? No. Are children who listen to classical music likely to be more intelligent? No. Is it bad for the child if the mother goes back to work? No."

"What I try to get across is the fact that parents are not the only influence on their children. There are schools, television, friends etc and parents should not assume that they have caused their children's crying, sleeping, eating or biting problems. Every baby is different and temperament depends on a huge number of factors."

The Hill message — possibly the most tired sentence in the history of parenthood — is "be aware of the facts and don't worry, it will get better."

● The diary of Joanna Pitman's pregnancy will continue in Weekend







هكذا من الأصل

# Stargazers can be Christians

Astrology can live with Christianity, as three star astrologers testify.

Philip Delves Broughton reports

Astrologers feel Christianity has snatched them up. Who was it, after all, that was first on the scene as the infant Messiah lay mewing in his swaddling, but those three ancient star-gazers, the Russell Grant, Shelley von Strunckel and Mystic Meg of their day, who followed the light from the East?

Yet in return for their gold, frankincense and myrrh, those who read the stars have received little but denunciation from the modern Church. The present Pope has said astrology mixes with demonic forces. The Church of England recently accused it of being "not of God".

This week sees the fiftieth anniversary of the Astrological Society, set up in 1948 to teach the techniques of astrology. Nine thousand people have passed through its doors or done correspondence courses. Astrology is now more popular than perhaps at any point in history.

A survey in the *Daily Mail* recently revealed that as many people believe in the paranormal as in God. Reactionary voices bemoaned the exchange of faith for credulity in the modern world.

Similar surveys have found, however, that while huge numbers believe in astrology, few would base their decisions on it. Unprecedented belief, it seems, is mixed with an unprecedented scepticism.

Depending on how you see it, faith is either being undermined or re-examined in the context of the many alternative belief systems of which people are now more aware.

In Russell Grant and Shelley von Strunckel, a belief in astrology and a deep Christian faith appear to rest happily together. The Old Testament may attack "stargazers" and "fortune-tellers" but, under attack, these two astrologers insist the devil can corrupt the scripture to any purpose.

Grant has been on pilgrimages to the shrines at Assisi and Fatima and attends both Anglican and spiritualist services. The latter take the form of Christian services except that, where the sermon should be, a medium steps up to receive messages. "I was once asked to open a church fete," he said recently, "and I could see some people thinking 'What's an astrologer doing opening a fete? I felt like saying I bet I'm more Christian than you.'"

When he expressed his feelings to the vicar, the vicar told him, "astrologers are the least of my problems. All my problems come from the born-again brigade."

Shelley von Strunckel, whose horoscopes appear in magazines and newspapers across the world, attends the Anglican St Mary's church off Sloane Square in Knightsbridge. Her Christianity, however, would find little truck



Mystic Meg with a crystal ball image of fellow astrologer, Russell Grant

with Cardinal Ratzinger, the Pope's ideological hit-man.

"I'm a mystic," she tells Channel 5's *My Sunday* programme, which is aired tomorrow. "I leave my mind outside the door. I come in asking the Holy Spirit to take over." She admits to having

trouble remembering the words to the Creed, as for her it represents the more absolute side of Christianity.

Anglicanism suits her better than Catholicism. "One of the reasons I'm not a Catholic is that the Pope makes moral decisions for Catholics. I

believe in taking responsibility for moral decisions."

Music plays a big part in her worship. "Music takes religious experience out of the mundane, out of the intellect," she says. "It allows one to fly to places where it is easier to get at the divine."

"What's an astrologer doing opening a fete? I felt like saying 'I bet I'm more Christian than you!'"

"Divinity and truth are one thing, but philosophy moves in cycles. I happen to be in a cycle where astrology is seen as outside traditional church teaching. It wasn't for most of the Church's history. I see it as being an inconvenient point in the cycle to be an astrologer in terms of the Church, but not for me."

In the early church, astrology was widespread. The practice of confession was introduced by the church partly to counter astrology and other occult practices, offering believers the chance for private repentance.

The wealthy and royal replaced their star-gazers with that chiefest of accessories, the personal confessor. Now that too has been replaced by the personal astrologer. Nancy Reagan even introduced one to the White House.

Of several popes who were interested in astrology, Leo X (1512-21) was certainly the greatest enthusiast. Among the Romans, astrology was ridiculed as "Babylonian calculations" and Horace wrote of it "Do not ask, it is forbidden to know what end the gods have in store for me or for you."

Von Strunckel denies, however, that astrology rules out free will. "Astrology," she says, "tells you what might rather than what will happen." It reads the cycles of nature and the types of people who will be affected by those cycles, without making finite predictions about outcomes.

Astrology does not rule out a belief in other faiths. In fact, it seems to attract those already interested in faith, spirituality and different systems of belief, Christianity included.

Mystic Meg, incidentally, prefers her private beliefs to remain a mystery.

# A degree of their faith

Ruth Gledhill meets the people with a Lambeth education



THE GREAT, the good and the gifted were gathered alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, in his tiny, 13th-century private chapel at Lambeth Palace. Dr Carey, who holds not just a degree but a doctorate too, is now in the luxurious position of being able to grant his own degrees, not only in divinity but also in law, arts, literature, medicine and music. Archbishops of Canterbury inherited this right from the Pope, under the Peter's Pence act of 1533.

We were played in by organist Stephen Layton, and then the choir, a group of students from the Royal College of Music directed by Dr John Birch, sang Maurice Duruflé's *Ubi Caritas*. This was good, but the best was yet to come. After the degrees were awarded, the students sang contemporary composer John Rutter's anthem *I Will Sing with the Spirit*, an extraordinary work. Rutter is himself the holder of a Lambeth degree.

After prayers, all six candidates swore allegiance to the Queen. Doctorates were then awarded to the first five, and an MA to the sixth, the Billy Graham-style evangelist J. John.

First there was Cambridge Classics graduate Rev Brian Beck, now Dr Beck, secretary and former president of the Methodist Conference. "There are few who combine Brian's scholarship and administrative ability," said Dr Carey.

Next was Dr Kenneth Leach, of St Botolph's, Aldgate, and former secretary of the Soho Drugs Group. "Not for him a sentimentalising of the desperate loneliness of loveless sex and escape into drugs, not the condemnation of those without hope or self-respect," said Dr Carey.

### AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★

ARCHBISHOP: Dr George Carey

ARCHITECTURE: Artwork not to my taste. ★★

SERMON: Peppered with wit. ★★★★★

MUSIC: Could have listened all day. ★★★★★

LITURGY: Prayers, hymns, anthem. ★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: The highest degree. ★★★★★

Dr Elaine Storkey, one of his theological advisers and director of the Institute for Contemporary Christianity in the West End, was "the very antithesis of an ivory-tower academic". Dr David Tustin, Bishop of Grimsby, a noted ecumenist, was a man prepared for any eventuality. "If his mine were to fall off, he would have another underneath it," is how one admirer put it.

Then there was Mr John Graham, a consultant surgeon at the University College and Throat, Nose and Ear hospitals in London. Mr Graham, a committed member of his parish church in Highgate; North London, is a patron of many charities and a consultant to the medical foundation for the care of victims of torture. He has made an "outstanding contribution" to patient care, said Dr Carey.

The recipients and their families then went on to a reception and wandered round the Palace grounds, which are open twice a year to the public, the next date being June 27, Lambeth's annual fete.

● Lambeth Palace, London SE17U. Tel: 0171-928 8282



George Carey (centre front) with the six recipients

Just before Easter I visited the University of Pittsburgh to give a talk at the Center for the Philosophy of Science. This is located in the central building of the university which is a modern Gothic skyscraper nicknamed "the Cathedral of Learning". The building is essentially a tower soaring 44 storeys high and dwarfing the smaller neo-Gothic Heinz Memorial chapel.

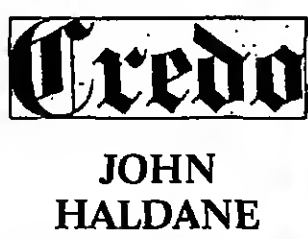
The tower's first level is given over to a vast and lofty "commons room" designed in 15th-century English perpendicular style but constructed, like the rest of the building, from stone-clad steel. Little natural light penetrates the space but Gothic lanterns spread a gentle glow throughout. The feeling is familiar — it is indeed that of a cathedral.

The scene changes. The window of my office in St Andrews looks across to the solid tower of St Salvator's College. The college was established in 1450. With his own hands the founder, Bishop James Kennedy, set the four cornerstones of the building,

# How two towers became beacons of Christianity

and sought graces for a foundation created "for the praise of God, the strengthening of the Church and the increase of the Christian religion". Kennedy was concerned to unite the ecclesiastical and the academic, requiring that the provost and his priests teach as well as preach.

Bishop Kennedy's tower of God reaches heavenwards and was intended to be seen as a beacon of the Christian faith. Pittsburgh's tower of learning reaches high into what were once smog-clouded skies expressing the ambition of its chancellor, to produce the most striking college



JOHN HALDANE

building in the world. I am struck by the way in which each building raises the eye and mind above the present task and suggests a purpose for knowledge beyond its practical applications. Each provides, literally and metaphorically, something to look up to. Writing in the 13th century

Thomas Aquinas observed that "the human intellect is measured by things and that things are measured by God". What he meant was that knowledge involves conforming our minds to the way things are, and that the way things are in the world is a reflection of God's own mind. Our true thoughts are shaped by the world, the world is shaped by God; thus through inquiry we come to know something of the mind of God. Our minds are shaped and measured by the divine mind.

This is a profound and inspiring account of knowledge. To a degree it is reappearing in writings about

contemporary science; for both at the cosmological level and at that of the microphysical, there is a trend among investigators to think of their inquiries as reaching closer to the mind of God. The re-emergence of this view should come as no surprise to the believer, though it is welcome evidence that far from being hostile to religion, scientific theories are often congenial to theistic belief.

It is important, however, not to restrict the point to cosmology and physics: the natural sciences, and not only those but the human sciences, the humanities and the arts all offer scope for intellectual communion between the mind of man and the mind of God. It is an especially happy irony, however, that the most prominent centre for the philosophy of science should be housed in a modern Cathedral of Learning beside a neo-Gothic chapel. Bishop Kennedy would have approved.

● John Haldane is Professor of Philosophy at the University of St Andrews.

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## Church services for tomorrow

- ARMAGH CATHEDRAL:** 10 HC; 11 Ch Euch. Ireland in C; 3.15 Ch E. Breviary D.
- BANGOR CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 9.45 Cymru Bendisaid; 11 Ch Euch. Ireland in C; 3.15 Ch E. 5 Goshier.
- BELFAST CATHEDRAL:** 10 HC; 11 S Euch. Missa sanctorum Joannis de Deo (Haydn); 3.30 Ch hospital service.
- BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL:** 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch. Missa brevis (Palestrina); 4 Ch E. Summation in A.
- BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.15 Euch. Coronation mass (Wozart); 4 Ch E. Canon Galilee.
- BRECON CATHEDRAL:** 8, 11 Euch; 3.30 E. Frederick Ouseley in B minor.
- BRISTOL CATHEDRAL:** 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Festal Euch. Messe solennelle (Langlais); Canon J Simpson; 3.30 Festal E.
- CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10 M; Responses (Rose); 11 S Euch. Nos vos refinguntur orphans (Byrd). The Archbishops' 3.15 E. Howells in G; 6.30 ES.
- CARLISLE CATHEDRAL:** 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Schubert No 3 in B flat; Canon D T Dennis; 11.30 M. Boyce in C; 3.30 E; 6.30 ES. Canon M. Rees.
- CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10 M; 11.30 Euch. 11.15 Euch. Missa brevis (Palestrina); Canon D Knight; 6 Ch E.
- CHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch. Collegium regale (Howells); Canon Dr T Dennis; 11.30 M. Boyce in C; 3.30 E; 6.30 ES. Canon M. Rees.
- CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10 M; 11.30 Euch. 11.15 Euch. Missa brevis (Palestrina); Canon D Knight; 6 Ch E.
- CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL:** Dublin: 11 S Euch. Missa brevis (Kodaly); 3.30 Ch E. Veni creator (Berlioz).
- CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL:** Oxford: 10.15 M; 11.15 S Euch. Missa brevis (Byrd); Canon Ward; 6 E. Summation in G.
- DERBY CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch. Watkinson in E; 6 Ch E. Walmisley in D minor.
- ELY CATHEDRAL:** 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Coronation mass (Mozart); 3.45 E. St Paul's service (Howells); 6.30 ES and Te Deum service.
- EXETER CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch. Darte in E; 11.15 M. Canon A Mawson; 3 E. Collegium regale (Wood); 6.30 ES.
- GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10.15 M; Ireland in F; 10.45 Euch. Spatzennesse (Mozart); 3 Festal E. Stanford in B flat.
- GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Schubert in G. Bishop of Guildford; 6.30 ES. Viri Galilei (Gowers).
- HEREFORD CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10 Euch. Mass in five parts (Byrd); 11.30 M. Britten in E; 3.30 E. Chichester service (Walmisley).
- LEICESTER CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10; 10.30 Euch. Bells of St Mary (Paterson); 4 Ch E. Walmisley in D minor.
- LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Stanford in B flat; Rev N MacGregor; 3.30 E. Howells in C; 6.30 ES.
- LINCOLN CATHEDRAL:** 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch. Schubert in G; 11.15 M. Stanford in C; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E.
- LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10.30 Euch. Canon N Vincent; 3 Ch E. Rev G. Responses (Palestrina).
- MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch. Mass for four voices (Berkeley). Archdeacon of Rochdale; 6.30 E. Responses (Palestrina).
- NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL:** 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch. Missa de Angelis. Mrs M Wood; 4 Ch E. Baird in E flat.
- NEWPORT CATHEDRAL:** 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch. Missa brevis (Berkeley); 6.30 Ch E. Baird in D; 6.30 EP.
- NORWICH CATHEDRAL:** 7.30 MP; 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Missa brevis (Berkeley). Bishop of Norwich; 3.30 Festal E.
- PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL:** 9.30 M; Stanford in B flat; 10.30 Euch. Darte in E; 3.30 E. Dyson in F.
- PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10 S Euch. Stanford in C; Canon D Isaac; 6.30 E. Collegium regale (Howells).
- ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch. Missa solennis (Ashfield). Canon J Armon; 3.15 E. Summation in G; 6.30 Charles Dickens memorial service.
- SALISBURY CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10 Euch. Collegium regale (Howells); 11.45 M. Canon D Slater; 3 Ch E. Hereford service (Lloyd); 5 Salisbury Festival.
- SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch. Missa brevis (Britten); 4 German Lutherans; 6.30 E. Howells in E.
- SOUTH WARK CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch. Mozart in G; 3 Ch E. Britten in C.
- SOUTHWELL MINSTER:** 7.30 M; L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch. Veni sancte spiritus (Lassus); 3.15 E. Hereford service (Lloyd).
- TRURO CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 9 M; 10 Sol S Euch. Little organ mass (Haydn); 6 Sol E. Stanford in A.
- WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 9.15 Euch. Collegium regale (Howells); 11.45 M. Canon D Slater; 3 Ch E. Hereford service (Lloyd); 5 Salisbury Festival.
- WELLS CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch. Missa in simplicitate (Langlais); 11.30 M; 3 E. Summation in G. Prebendary N Kent Worle.
- WESTMINSTER ABBEY:** 8 HC; 10 M; Stanford in B flat; 11.15 Euch. Pontific in G; 3 E. Canon L. Webber; 3.45 Organ Recital: Peter Jolley; 6.30 ES. Rev P Cowell.
- WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 10 S Euch. Messe solennelle (Vieme); 3.30 E. St Paul's service (Howells).
- YORK MINSTER:** 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch. Missa Pape Marcellini (Palestrina); Canon B Ruddock; 11.30 M; E. Moeran in D.
- ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL:** Herefordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11 Sol Euch. Darte in F; 6.30 E.
- ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL:** Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch. Hereford service (Lloyd); 6.30 Ch E. Dyson in F.
- ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL:** Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch; 3.30 Ch E.
- ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL:** Pembrokeshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymru Bendisaid; 11.15 Ch M. Stanford in B flat; 6 Ch E. Breviary in D.
- ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10 S Euch. Schubert in B flat; 11.30 Ch M. Collegium regale (Howells); 3.30 Ch E.
- ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL:** Cork: 8 Euch; 11.15 Ch Euch. Noble in B minor; 7 Ch E. Second service (Sheppard).
- ST GILES' CATHEDRAL:** Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC. Schubert in G; 11.30 MS; 6 Open orchestra; 8 ES. Rev K K Watson.
- ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL:** Old Aberdeen: 11.3 HC. Rev Dr H Saffron; 6 ES.
- ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL:** Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch. Missa brevis (Berkeley); 3.30 Ordination service, Messe solennelle (Langlais).
- ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL:** Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch. Four part mass (Byrd). Rev W D Sinnamott; 3.15 Ch E. Purcell in G minor.
- ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10 M; 11.30 S Euch. Missa brevis (Kodaly); The Archbishops' 3.15 E. St Paul's service (Howells); 5 organ recital; Jared Johnson; 6 ES.
- ST JAMES'S CHURCH:** West Malvern: 8 HC. Rev P Billingham; 10.30 C; 6.30 ES.
- RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL:** SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy. Kievian and traditional polyphony. Met Anthony.
- ALL SAINTS:** SW1: 10.20 MP; 11 HM. Mozart in C; 5.15 LM; 6 E & B. Collegium regale (Howells).
- ALL SOULS:** W1: 9.30, 11.30. Rev P Blackham; 6.30 Venerable G Kultur.
- THE ASSUMPTION:** W1: 11 Missa ave maris stella (Victoria).
- CHELSEA OLD CHURCH:** SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M. Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 Ch E.
- CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND:** WC2: 11.15, 6.30. Rev S Hood.
- FARM STREET:** W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM. Factus est repente (Aichinger); 12.30 LM; 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM.
- HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON:** SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal Service.
- HOLY TRINITY:** Skene Street: 8.45 Euch; 11.15 Euch. Mozan in B. Bishop M Marshall.
- THE ORATORY:** SW7: 7.8, 9, 10, 11 Mass. Collected mass (Mozart); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B; 4.30, 7 Mass.
- ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH:** Ivorra Gardens W8; Pentecost.
- WESLEY'S CHAPEL:** EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS. Rev Dr L Griffiths.
- WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL:** (Methodist); 11 MP. Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 Thanksgiving service for Mother Theresa of Calcutta.
- ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran):** Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch; 7 ES.
- ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT:** EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch. Missa dum complentur (Victoria); 6.30 E. Gloucester service (Howells).
- ST BRIDE'S:** EC4: 11 Ch Euch. Mozan in C. Loquehanum (Tullin); 6 Holy Ghost (Arnold). Canon J Oates; 5.30 Ch E. Summation in G. Come down O love divine (Harris). The spirit of the Lord (Elgar).
- ST CLEMENT DANES:** WC2: 11 Ch Euch. Darte in F. Rev P Sladen.
- ST ETHELREDA'S:** EC1: 11 S Mass. Mass of Pentecost (Byrd).
- ST GEORGE'S:** W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch. Stanford in B flat.
- ST JAMES'S:** Garrickhythe. EC4: 10.30 S Euch. English chamber choir. John Paul.
- ST JAMES'S:** Sussex Gardens: 10.30 S Euch. Schubert in F. Rev J Lawson; 6 Ch E. Stanford in G.
- ST JDDH'S:** E15: 11 HC. Tocatta (Mussell). Rev M Okello; 6.30 EP. Rev D Richards.
- ST LUKE'S:** SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Ave verum (Elgar). Rev C Nevill-Davies; 6.30 E.
- ST MARK'S:** NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch. Little organ mass (Haydn).
- ST MARGARET'S:** SW1: 11 S Euch. Mozan in C. Rev D J Beal.
- ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS:** WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors Service; 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.
- ST MARY ABOTH CHURCH:** W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M. Rev E Shegog; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E. Rev M Fuller.
- ST MARY'S:** SW1: 9.15 LM; 11 HM. Missa sanctorum Nicolai (Haydn); 6 Sol E & B.
- ST MARYLEBONE:** NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch. Missa brevis (Britten). Rev J Caldwell.
- ST PAULS:** SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Sol Euch. Mass for five voices (Byrd). Rev N Dawson.
- ST PETERS:** SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family HC; 6.30 E. Rev M Fuller.
- ST PETER ABBOT:** SW1: 11 S Euch. Stanford in G.
- PETER AD VINCULA:** HM Tower of London; 9.15 HC; 11 M. Stanford in C. Rev P C Abram.
- CHAPEL ROYAL:** St James's Palace; 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch. Mozan in F. Rev M Oakley.
- CHAPEL ROYAL:** Hampton Court Palace; 8.30 HC; 11 Ch Euch. Messe cum jubilo (Duruflé); 3.30 E. Naylor in D.
- GROSVENOR CHAPEL:** South Audley St. W1: 11 S Euch. Coronation mass (Mozart). Rev S J Hobbs.
- QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY:** WC2: 11 S Euch. Jackson in C.
- THE TEMPLE CHURCH:** EC4: 8.30, 11.15 HC. Mozan in F. The Master.
- GUARDS CHAPEL:** Wellington Barracks. Band of the Blues and Royals. Come holy ghost (Plainsong); 12 HC.
- ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL:** SE10: 11 S Euch. Ireland in C. Rev R Norton.
- Compiled by Deborah King

















Caped crusader braves bear country

Canada 29

THE TIMES TRAVEL

We're all going on a summer holiday

Family trips 35



Safari brings light to African night

Oliver Bennett stays a step ahead of the game at night using infra-red goggles to watch Kenya's animals

There it is," whispered George, the guide. "Hippo, hippo." It was 11pm in the Masai Mara national park in Kenya, and I peered through my pair of heavy, infra-red binoculars to see a barely identifiable but undeniably large animal chomping peacefully on the tall grass.

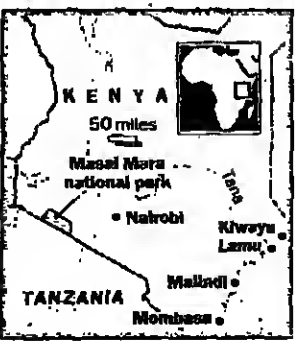
We were testing the Mara Intrepids Club's new high-tech game-viewing technology, called Night Sight, with its God-like promise in the brochure to "turn the night into daylight".

Prior to this, anyone who wanted to watch animals at night went out in a Jeep equipped with high-intensity beams. One viewed the animals as they sped away from the light, or sat frozen like rabbits on a country road.

Night Sight reminded me of the scene in the film Silence of the Lambs, where a serial killer stalks Jodie Foster's character sporting similar goggles: he can see her, she cannot see him.

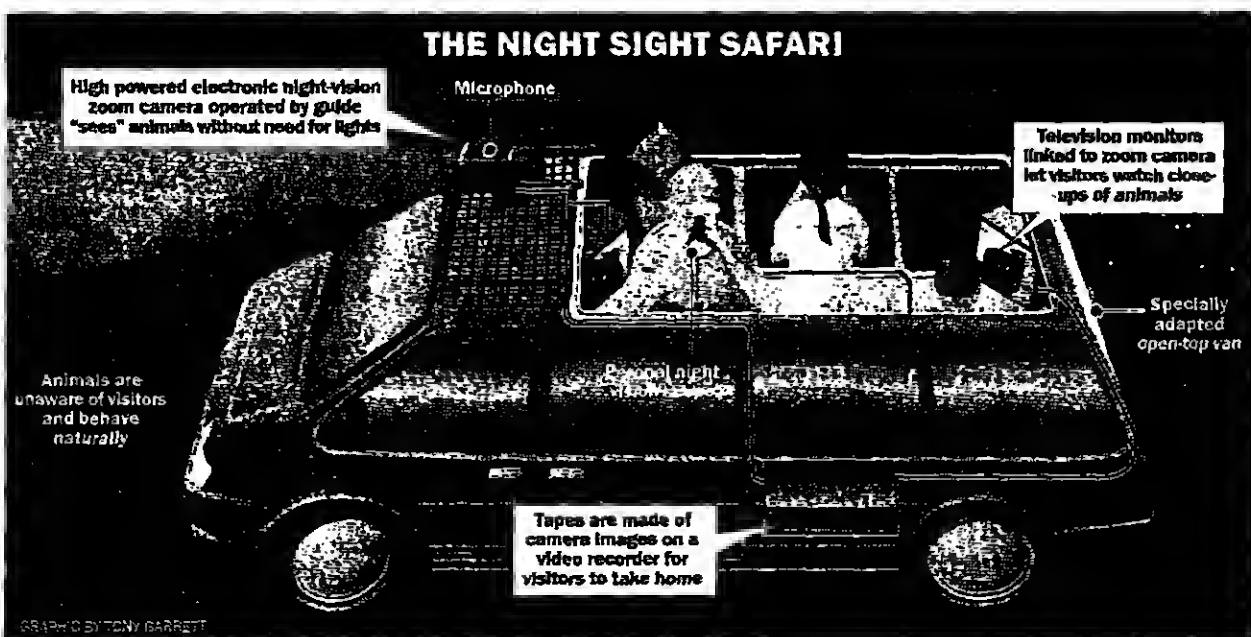


An excursion to a Masai village to meet the women was an enjoyable diversion from viewing animals at night, using goggles from a Land Rover kitted out with infra-red gadgets, below



constellations in the wide plains skies and listened to the sounds of the bush. And thought to myself: this is more compelling than watching fuzzy animals.

A first-time visitor, I was taken with Kenya. I had never fancied a safari - chugging around in a Land Rover waiting for lions to turn up seemed too much like fishing without the catch.



strip and as we flew in we scattered gazelles and giraffes. Aligning from the aircraft, a Masai warrior greeted us with a towel for refreshing ourselves and we learnt his name was David. Actually, his real name turned out to be something quite different, but clearly the industry had blandly recommended that he change his name to something that our dumb tourists would be able to pronounce.

Then, after acclimatising ourselves to the club, we surfaced. As one does, for there are four or five safari sightings a day and there is not much else, frankly, although it is enjoyable strolling around a few manicured acres in the middle of Africa's biggest game park.

three days, then go to another lodge or relax on the coast," said Munene Ngohi, the affable hotel manager.

But, intriguingly, Munene had also told us of a burgeoning activity, which struck me as a possible complement to Night Sight. "Cultural safaris and special interest groups are growing," he said.

Whereas Night Sight was less than illuminating - I concede we may have had a bad run - in the village excursion was an unexpected highlight. Then, as we motored back to the club, I realised that they were both part of a revitalising effort.

Kenya Fact File: Oliver Bennett travelled with Prestige Hotels and British Airways. Getting there: Abernethy and Kent (0171-730 9600) offers a "Wings Over Kenya" safari that includes three nights at both Prestige's Mara Intrepids Club and Samburu Intrepids Club, and one night at the Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi.

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Travelling in Banff National Park — home to skiers, hikers and mountain bikers

# Been there, done it, ticked it off the list

The first I knew about the bear was when his face filled the viewfinder. He blundered into the frame as I snapped mule deer, the ones that look as if they've been made from the spare parts of other species. He ambled through the clearing towards me, nibbling on spring grass and slurping juniper berries, oblivious to the panic around him. Deer scattered and a red squirrel scouted up the nearest pine tree. I stayed very, very still.

**Gill Williams dodges bears and chases deadlines as she takes up the Cross Canada Challenge**

anti-Anglos are mostly country people who haven't travelled anywhere." Friday: There was virtually enough spare room in my waterproof suit for one of the beluga whales that still swim in the St Lawrence, which runs through Montreal. "Strip down to your underwear and put these trousers on," the skipper instructed as I boarded the jet boat to ride the rapids — transport method number two. I didn't see any belugas. All I saw was a wall of water as our boat plummeted into a great whirlpool.

A week earlier — Sunday: I didn't expect to come face-to-face with a wild bear when I set off on the Cross Canada Challenge. There was nothing about it in the rules. As I flew into Halifax, I was more concerned about the logistics of travelling from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

transport was the Ocean train that takes 18 hours from Halifax to Montreal. Karen Josey, a naïve Haligonian, poured a drink as we waited on the platform. Vodka made from 12,000-year-old icebergs on rocks chiselled from another iceberg still floating off the coast of Newfoundland.

Saturday: I'd been asking around but nobody had seen my competitors (two other journalists with national newspapers). I know they're out there, probably as exhausted as me, packing before breakfast, lurching on the run and staying out too late in Halifax cello rock or Montreal folk bars. Anyway, it was time to make the big jump — by air from Montreal to Calgary in Alberta (transport number three). I landed late afternoon and checked into the Grand Palliser Hotel, where I counted the boxes of freight trains as they rolled past.

I was competing against other journalists in an obstacle course set by the Canadian Tourist Commission and Air Canada. On a budget of £1,000, I had to use six means of transport, cross mountains, meet French-speaking Canadians, attend live-music fixtures and visit museums. All that in just two weeks.

Wednesday: I went to sleep in the wilderness of New Brunswick and woke up in what appeared to be France; everyone in the breakfast car was speaking French. Believe it or not, Montreal is the second largest Francophone city in the world after Paris, yet it has the same fierce sense of independence that you find in Australia or America.

Sunday: My motorhome — transport number four — was as long as a Greyhound bus. I was already in Wild Bill's saloon on Banff Avenue while the on-board toilet I never dared use was still in the outer suburbs of Calgary.

There was no sign of the competition as I descended into Halifax through dark clouds. I'd planned to hitch a ride on a fishing boat. But mist had rolled in and the boats were in dock. Fog horns moaned from the bay.

Thursday: The French-speaking Quebecers, Jews and Italians traditionally lived on the east side of the city while the English lived on the west. Today, the demarcation is less pronounced although the push for separatism is everywhere and obvious. "Most Montreal people don't want separation," said Dolores Enos, a carriage driver in the old town. "The

Monday: I dropped off the motorhome and proceeded by hired mountain bike — transport number five. I picked up a bundle of trail maps from the information centre and set off along the first trail from Banff deep into Sundance Canyon. It was a short ride uphill before I was in the wilderness. The air was thin and the

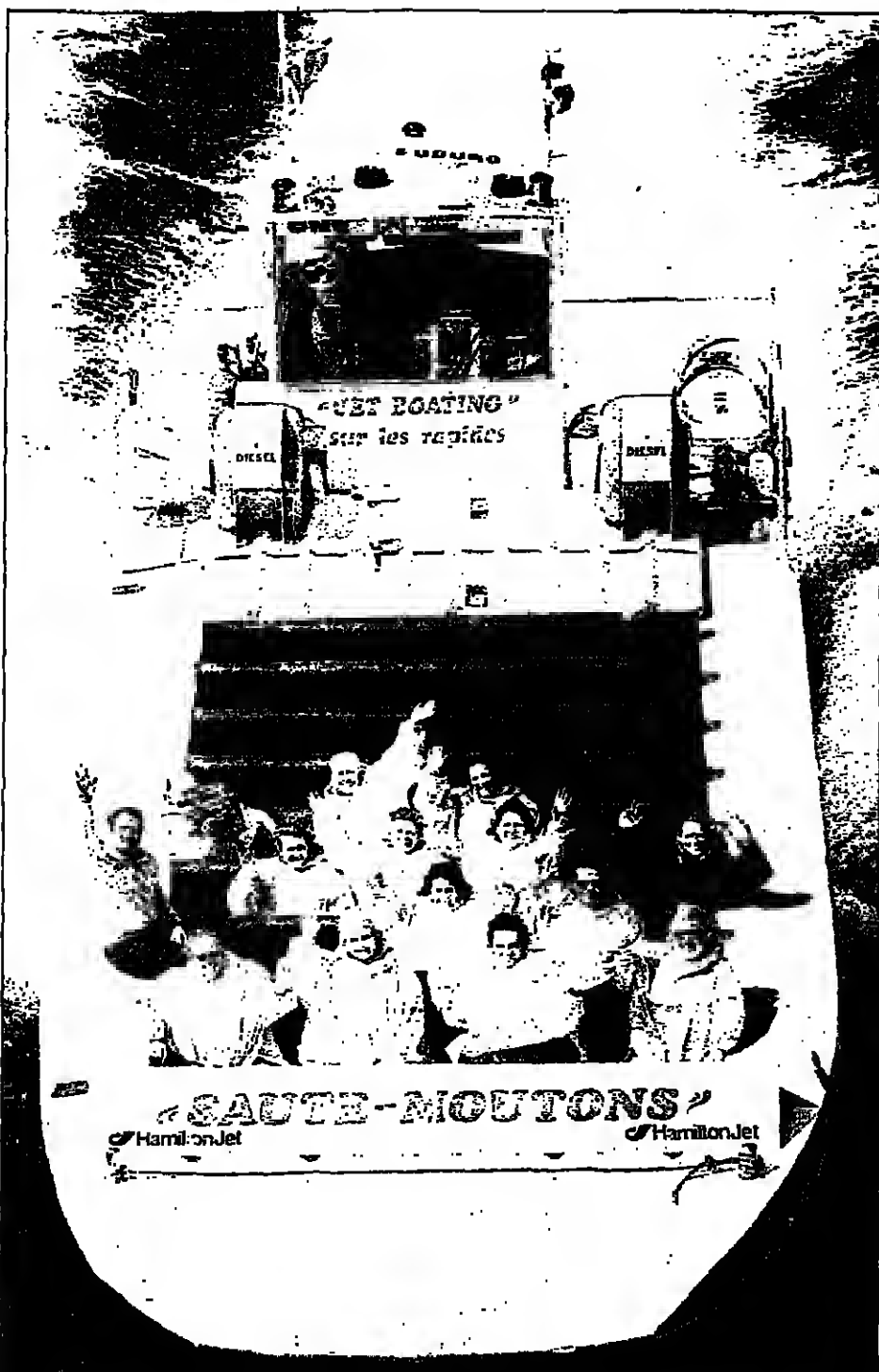
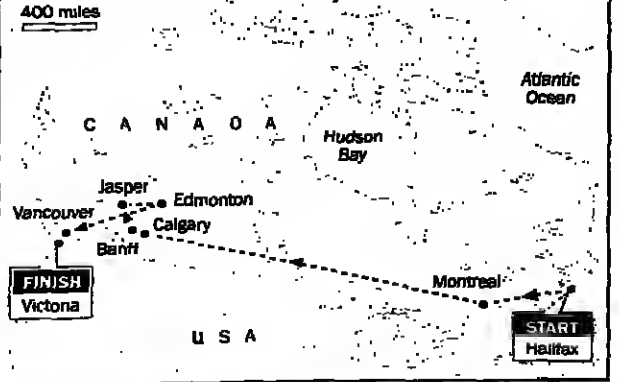
Monday: "This isn't uncommon weather for us," said Murray when we took shelter in his boathouse in Peggy's Cove. "We use the time to mend our nets." The main catch here is mackerel, cod and tuna. But the real money comes from lobsters: tender one-pounders shipped to smart restaurants in Montreal and Toronto.

Thursday: Jasper National Park wildlife guide, Lauren, insisted I stayed in the car when we photographed another black bear further up the valley. "We're not supposed to be outside when there is a bear in the neighbourhood," he explained. The idea is to stop bears associating people with food, and it's for their own good: one bear guilty of raids on RVs (Recreational Vehicles) ended up doing time in Calgary Zoo.

Friday: The Indian songs of British Columbia cross tribal lines. The drum chant Wayne Carlick, of the Raven Clan in British Columbia, sang with Ben Spencer, from the Haida Nation, was common to both cultures. A small crowd had gathered when the men gave me an impromptu performance at Vancouver's Capilano Suspension Bridge. Many of the Indians living in Vancouver come from the native town of Squamish in British Columbia. I buzzed

Wet weather called for a change of plan. Instead of the boat, I rickied off the museum on my checklist by wandering around the Titanic exhibition. Movie fans, confusing fact with fiction, had left tickets stubs on the grave of J. Dawson, thinking it's Jack, the hero played by Leonardo DiCaprio in James Cameron's blockbuster. In fact, the victim is James, a stoker who had nothing to do with the plot.

Thursday: My first means of



Riding the rapids up St Lawrence River, Montreal — transport method number two



One horsepower. Gill rides through the Rockies

trail climbed steadily. I stopped to catch my breath and take a sip from the water bottle. A low growl came from somewhere in the undergrowth. I quickly wheeled the bike towards civilisation and a dinner where I wasn't the main course.

Tuesday: Nobody said the challenge would be easy. The next morning was spent trying to motivate a horse (my sixth form of transport) that refused to change into second gear. I followed the Bow River outside Banff nose to tail with riders who'd been born in the saddle. After a few miles of frustratingly slow progress, I swapped the mount for a cattle wagon ride with Ron, who'd been a cowboy when Roy Rogers was still riding a rocking horse.

Saturday: I'd met the challenge. The sun came out and I chinned my bike to the seaside railings, dipping my toes in the Pacific and looking back over what had been an action-packed and extremely fulfill-

Squamish from a float plane — yet another form of transport to add to the growing list — on my way to a glacier in the high mountains. I'd been hoping to land on a glacier but unfortunately we went into a blizzard that forced us to turn back. Disappointed, I hitched a lift on a tour bus down the coast road from Squamish to the ferry that was to take me to Vancouver Island — my final destination.

As Victoria grew smaller and we flew towards Vancouver airport, I wondered what had become of my fellow competitors. Had they made it before me, or had they been less fortunate and bumped into that bear in the woods...?

● The winner of the Cross Canada Challenge will be announced by the Canadian Tourist Commission and Air Canada, once each of the entrants' articles has been published and judged for originality and sense of adventure

**CANADA FACT FILE**

- Getting there: Gill Williams travelled with Air Canada, co-sponsor of the Canada Challenge. Air Canada (0990 247226) offers open-jaw tickets, allowing travel into one city and out through another. A flight to Halifax, returning from Vancouver, is £637 in peak season.
- Getting about: Motorhomes (RVs) in the Rockies, sightseeing tours, the Ocean Train linking Halifax and Montreal plus helicopter and ferry rides between Vancouver and Victoria can be booked through Thomas Cook Holidays (01733 418750). RVs can be rented from £41 per day. Tickets for the Ocean Train, £115 per person including accommodation and breakfast; a "Glacier Landing" excursion out of Vancouver is £61 per person. An internal flight from Montreal to Calgary costs from £60 per person with Air Canada if you have booked your international flight with the airline.
- You need a pass to enter Banff and Jasper National Parks, available from tourist offices in both towns.
- Where to stay: The hotels visited during the Challenge cost about £30-£45 per person per night. Thomas Cook Holidays can arrange bookings.
- Campsites for RVs with electrical and water supplies cost about £12 per night at this time of year. Camps near town open in May, those further up the mountains are only open during the warmest months.
- Further information: The Canadian Tourist Commission (0891 715000, premium rates).

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# Fragrant trip to the Picos

In Spain's Picos de Europa, Stephen Anderton, the Times gardener, enjoys a wildflower holiday, and, below, Jules Stewart explores remote Bulnes



### FACT FILE

■ Getting there: Stephen Anderton's week was based at Casa Gustavo, from £410 per person per week inclusive. Contact CAN-FAB, 8 Park View, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1BS (01629 813346). The Field Studies Council Overseas, Moorford Bridge, Sirewebury SY4 1LW (01743 850522). British Airways (0345 222111) flies twice daily from Heathrow to Bilbao, from £233 return. Britany Ferries (0990 360360) operates from Plymouth to Santander; until June 21, foot passengers, £118 return. Car £589 return.

■ Further Reading: *Landscapes of the Picos de Europa and Northern Spain* (Sunbower Books, £9.99); *Spain: The Rough Guide* (£11.99).

where we would end up glowing, glazed and exhausted, enjoying a beer and tapas.

The Picos are only 20 miles across but without expert help, finding serious outbreaks of the really special wild flowers would be like looking for a needle in a haystack. We had the naturalist and author Teresa Farino with us. She knew exactly which dirt track and in which corner of alpine meadow you'd find spectacular colonies of St Bernard's lily, or alpine pasque flowers, or any of the 30 species of orchids flowering that week.

Teresa, who is married to a local builder, is a sort of cross between Jo Brand — she was pregnant with twins — and David Attenborough. An unlikely union, you may think, but the result is agreeable — a mixture of the Brand toughness and the Attenborough fascination for all things natural, and a willingness to pass it on. Her patience with us

gardeners and amateur botanists was endless and she drove carefully but with panache.

The Picos are her passion and have been for the past 15 years. She leads study tours there for the Field Studies Council as well as Canfab (Cantabria Fabulosa) courses such as the one I joined. She writes about the Picos in magazines and journals. And she goes on studying them, day in, day out.

I can see why life in the Picos has hit a naturalist like her. There is next to no gardening here. The terracotta tiled houses have a few pots of geraniums perhaps, and a patch of Madonna lilies, but that's it. Just below Casa Gustavo was a small holding growing lettuce and breeding free-range rabbits. Says it all, doesn't it?

But if wildlife is your interest, the Picos are rich indeed. The high meadows are leaping

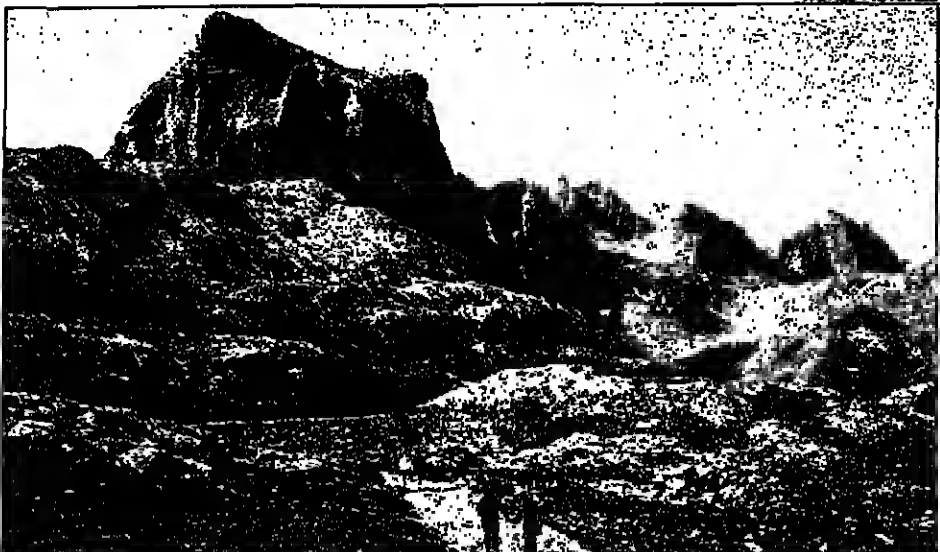
700-metre-long single-span cable car at Fuente Dè. Here, in this rocky lunar landscape, grazed by the chamois which clattered circumspectly across our path, were thousands of alpine cushion plants spangling the rocks — vivid blue gentianas, daphnes, anemones, saxifragas and tiny ferns. At 2,000m above sea-level we peered by a crystal clear new-misted pool. It was hot, still and silent except for the gunshot cry of the choughs ricocheting between the cliffs.

Another morning we walked in a water meadow below the San Glorio pass and saw chives and wild tulips growing in temporarily wet gravel. You wonder what the locals make of these carloads of Brits who stop in the middle of nowhere and wander about in the wet grass with downcast eyes, all Rohan, Nikon and boot-socks. Are they plucking up courage to pee behind a bush? Have they lost a contact lens? Surely it's not a courtship display? The truth is we were just fascinated.

Tourism has made little impact on the Picos. The towns' shops sell local blue cheeses and postcards of the great Cares and Deva river gorges which carve up the mountains. But occasionally a Tarmac road will suddenly give way to mud and stone as it dives off into a village apparently unchanged for centuries. An hour away, in the coastal plain, the new motorway is gradually pushing its way westwards across the northern coast of Spain, and you wonder how much longer all this will stay so separate. Tourism will come to the valleys, but on the mountains, if you're prepared to walk, you'll still not see a soul.



The Brits, 'all Nikon and boot-socks, stop in the middle of nowhere' to study flowers



Walking in the Picos de Europa at Fuente Dè, home to alpine cushion plants

## On the road to nowhere

You could be forgiven for having missed Bulnes while motoring through Asturias, for it is the last inhabited village in Spain lacking any road connection.

Every winter, I recall from my years living in Spain, there would be radio reports of Bulnes, in the Picos de Europa mountains, cut off by violent storms and buried under snowdrifts, relying on airdrops of food by the Guardia Civil. I would listen to these reports and wonder what life must be like in those frozen mountains, where wolves and bears have returned from the verge of extinction to prowling the abandoned villages.

Now I was to find out. The metalled road ends at Poncebos, little more than a riverside café, about a 15-minute drive from Cabrales, a summer resort.

The bridge across the Cares starts you off on the hour-and-a-half slog to Bulnes — two hours if you walk behind the rules that ferry supplies to the village. After the initial downhill stretch, the path

### BULNES FACT FILE

■ Getting there: Aviacó (0171-830 0011) flies three times a week from Gatwick to Oviedo, a 1½-hour drive from Poncebos. Return £23 until August 25, then £29. From September 28, the fare drops to £213. Bulnes hut, Albergue de Bulnes (00 348 584 5943, open to October or by arrangement off-season. From Pts 1,000 (£4.40) a night to Pts 4,000 (£17.40) full board. Professional licensed guides, Pts 18,000 (£79) per person for three-day trek to Pts 45,000 (£196) for eight days all in. Bulnes trips and Picos treks: Exodas (0181-675 5580).

rises steeply before straddling a gorge hundreds of feet deep. Bulnes comprises a derelict church and graveyard and seven stone houses, of which three double as bars. Sunning himself in front of one was Esteban, an ancient farmer.

"Buenos días," he said.

"Buenos días," I replied.

The formalities fulfilled, I went for the jugular. "I hear the Cabrales town council wants to build a road to Bulnes." The local politicians had been whipping up a lot of rhetoric about bringing Bulnes out of the Stone Age.

Esteban nodded. "So they say. They've been talking about it for years, but it'll never happen."

I mustered a frown to disguise my joy. "Would a road be a good thing? After all, the attraction for tourists is its remoteness."

Esteban shook his head. "We need the road. We've got to stop the mass emigration or the village will die."

"Mass emigration? How many people live here?"

Esteban folded his fingers one by one, his eyes on the sky. "Let's see. There's Maria, Carlos, Carmen, Cesar... Oh, ten I suppose."

"I see. And when did people start emigrating to the cities?"

"Back in the Sixties."

"When you had...?"

"About 20."

Esteban said it would be nice to have goods brought in daily from town, such as bread. Bread? I couldn't imagine a Spanish kitchen table without a golden-crusting pistola. "Of course we have bread, but we have to bake it," he explained. The rules, he said, were unreliable, especially when the path iced up or fog descended.

The next house was the Albergue de Bulnes, the logistics centre for anyone using Bulnes as a base. It provides meals and bunk-beds for 20, and professional trekking and climbing guides.

The Picos de Europa, so named because they were the

first landfall sighted by explorers returning from the New World, are one of Europe's natural gems. Although tiny, the emptiness and abrupt landscape give them a wild, spooky feeling.

I passed Esteban on my way back. "Did the Guardia Civil helicopter come last winter to drop supplies?" I asked by way of a parting remark.

"The helicopter? It was here two weeks ago to take my wife to the hospital. She had a heart attack."

"I'm sorry. How is she?"

"She's fine." He gestured with his chin at a woman with a white-cotton babushka over her head, pulling cabbages out of the ground some 20 yards away. "She came back last week. They wanted to fly her in but she didn't like the helicopter, so the ambulance dropped her off at Poncebos, and she walked up."

Esteban nodded as I walked off, his gaze on his wife bent double in the field.

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World Cup football fans can feast on French culture between matches. Gareth Huw Davies reports

# A sporting chance to see France

## NANTES

Anne — the last Duchess of Brittany — is everywhere: on Nantes' biscuit tins, street signs, shop names. I lunch at Le Pont Lévis (1 Rue du Château) for the best views of the city castle.

This old Breton port has big plans for the World Cup. Cours St André is being turned into a mock Copacabana Beach. Spectators can travel by riverboat.

After having afternoon tea (£3.45) at La Cigale (Place Graslin) — all mirrors, mosaics and rococo gilding — I visited the Museum of Fine Art (Rue Gambetta; entry £3.18) to see Courbet's *Les Cribleuses de Blé*. In the evening, I went to the Arms' Park bar (Rue Kervegan), for live jazz, rugby scarves and photos.

## BORDEAUX

Under the full wattage of Mayor Juppé's cleaning and lighting programme for civic buildings, you could mistake this of Bordeaux for Paris. The Grand Théâtre's stone steps cascade out of a forest of classical columns. And the Girondins' Monument is stunning: Liberty breaking her chains atop a high column, above a Ben Hur-like chariot scene.

I stopped for coffee at Nulle Part Ailleurs (19 Cours du Maréchal Foch), a swish café owned by football stars Zinedine Zidane and Christophe Dugarry.

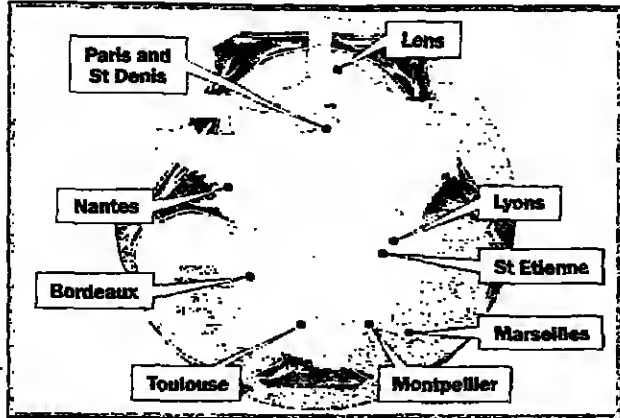
I lunched at Aux Trois Arcades in Place du Parlement, a quiet, traffic-free square with a fountain; then strolled along the immense waterfront, where old port buildings take new life. Even a huge concrete German submarine shed is soon to be made into an arts complex.

## TOULOUSE

Toulouse is a rugby-obsessed city and home to the French star Thomas Castaignède, a student. I spent an hour in the enormous Place du Capitole trying to spot the fly-half on his way to a lecture. But no sign of him, although there was many a dyed-blond lookalike.

Quiet, narrow streets lead off the square, each built with a kink to defeat the wind. Most streets lead to a fountain, or sumptuous quarters of a merchant enriched in the dyes trade.

The Bemberg Foundation is in the fine Renaissance Hotel d'Assézat, where I inched around the rooms behind a party of three-year-olds viewing an important Bonnard



collection and a Sarah Bernhardt self-portrait.

## MONTPELLIER

This is the western Med, where the Spanish influence is strong and the welcome brighter. I lost eight francs in the bus ricket machine; the driver gave me such a cheery smile, I didn't complain.

The city centre has a pedestrianised zone which includes the egg-shaped Place de la Comédie. I had lunch in Brasserie du Théâtre (22 Bd Victor Hugo), then visited the Place Royale de Peyrou — a grand setting for an equestrian statue of Louis XIV with an unusual past: when it was being transported to Montpellier by canal from Paris, the boat and statue sank under the weight of admirers who boarded to have a look. Finally I visited Musée Fabre (Bd Sarrailh) for its fine collection of European art, including a Reynolds.

## MARSEILLES

During the World Cup, Marseilles' Vieux Port will have the best free, staged entertainment of all the World Cup venues. And it will also be one of the best venues for seafood restaurants. The Bar de la Marine (on the port, Quai de Rive Neuve), where I sampled the seafood salad, was excellent — and other restaurants looked just as good.

In the afternoon, I visited the Centre de la Vieille Charité, a museum complex around a restored Baroque chapel — which includes one of the best Egyptian collections after the Louvre. I ate dinner at L'Entracte (Place Thiers) down by the docks.

## ST ETIENNE

The former rubbish tip opposite my hotel, now a golf course, exemplifies St Etienne's make-over. And on the trolley ride into town, I passed its last coalmine, closed in the early 1990s;

during the tournament, a local artist plans to wrap the slag heap in ribbons.

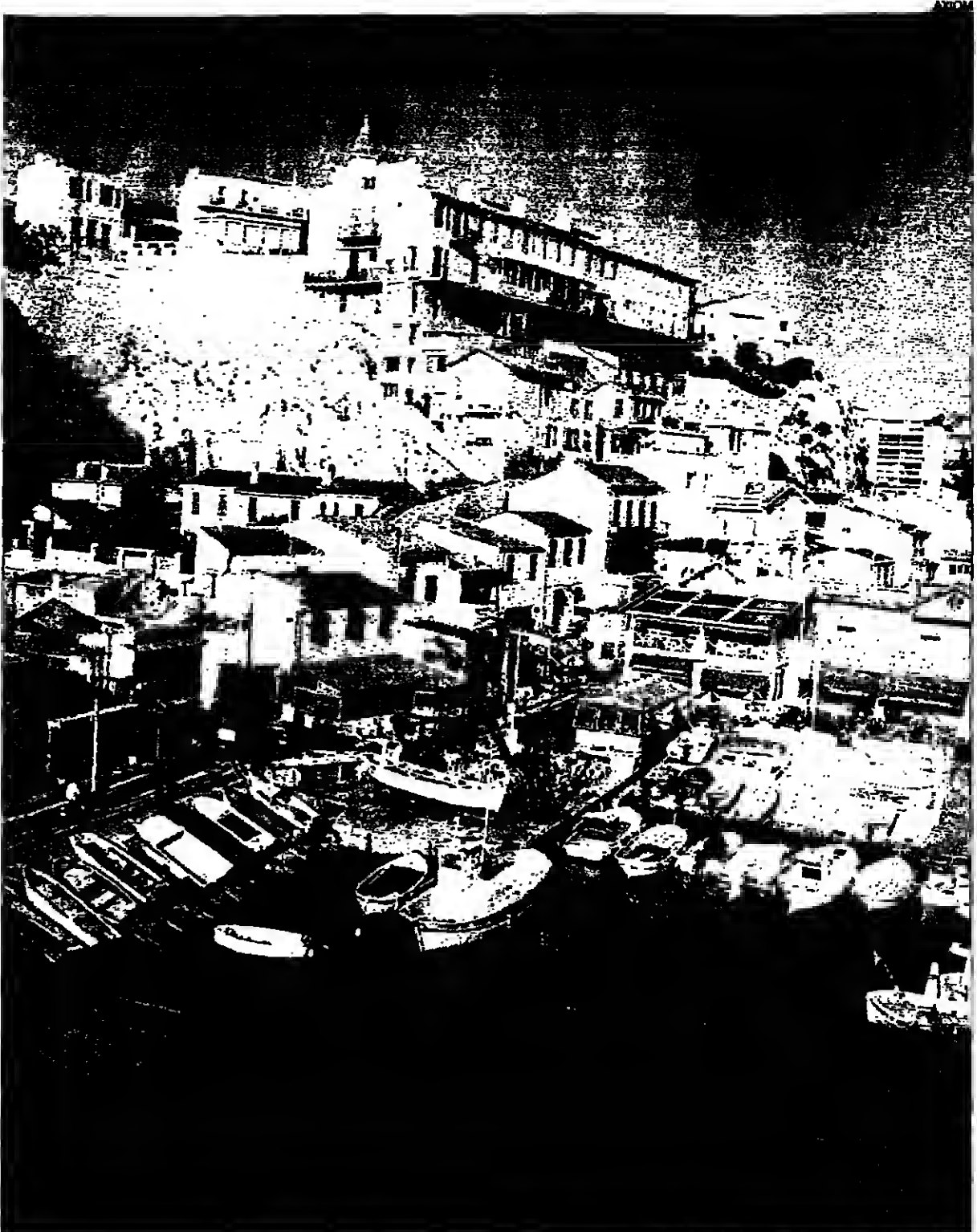
For 80p I gilded past pleasantly unpretentious civic architecture to the Museum of Modern Art (E3). It has the largest modern art collection in France outside Paris and was built in 1987 by supermarket magnate Guichard in colliers' black; displays include items by Warhol and Lichtenstein.

In the evening, I visited the amazing Midi Minuit (Place Jean-Jaurès), which has 420 drinks (including 65 whiskies and 30 bottle beers), two televisions, a pianist and an engaging multi-lingual barman named Said.

## LYONS

Lyons has a huge amount to offer between matches: the largest Renaissance district in Europe after Venice; Place Bellecour, one of Europe's largest squares (space for a permanent force of charging cavalry); the mighty, recently restored opera house, brilliantly extended below and above. And on top of all this, it is the gastronomic capital of France; arguably, the world.

I lunched at Le Bouchon aux Vins (62 Rue Mercière), a keenly-priced city restaurant.



Marseilles Vieux Port: one of the best spots for seafood in France, and the city is providing free entertainment

before visiting the Musée des Beaux Arts for the Matisse exhibition (until June 28, entry £2.70). Then I took the bus to Cité de la Création, to see the 24 three-storey high murals inspired by Lyons architect Tony Garnier.

## PARIS AND ST DENIS

My first call was the ticket window at Gare du Nord for that astonishing bargain, the Paris Visite pass (£5.35): valid all day on buses, the Métro and RER trains.

St Denis is technically a town in its own right and contains the new Stade de France. The venue is worth a visit even by football-phobes; it is likely to be a great cauldron of emotions during the World Cup.

To the Black Bear (161 Rue Montmartre), new sports bar with many TVs, owned by former rugby stars Rives and Paparémborde. Among photos and items are Eric Cantona's Manchester United shirt; and, a delightful anomaly in France, cricketer Ian Botham's pads.

## LENS

Lens is often ribbed for being boring; nothing there except the steam engine-shaped railway station, we are told.

This is unfair. Lens should be seen as a worthwhile stop-off in a tour through north-west France that also includes Lille, Bethune and Arras, all worth visiting for their architecture and First World War associations — Lens was completely flattened.

I stopped off at the Salon du Théâtre (Place Jean-Jaurès). The display counters were piled high with sensual concoctions, including a World Cup cake.

### FRANCOFILE

Gareth Huw Davies travelled with the French Tourist Office, SNCF, Eurostar, Le Shuttle and Air France.

Getting there: Rail Europe, the UK representative of SNCF, has a brochure listing Eurostar connections from Waterloo to all World Cup venues. Call 0990 024000 for a free copy; 0870-984 4298 for bookings. You can also call Eurostar direct on 0345 303030.

Eurotunnel (0990 353535) offers five-day returns from £120 a car and journeys lasting from six days to six months are £190 during the tournament.

Air France (0181-742 0600) flies to most World Cup destinations.

Getting to the match: Paris has the best connections: superb buses, Métro and RER trains. Nantes and St Etienne have good trams and Marseilles' Métro is excellent. Bordeaux, Montpellier and Lyons are not so well connected. The stadium at Lens is within walking distance.

Further information: French Tourist Office (0891 244123) 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL.



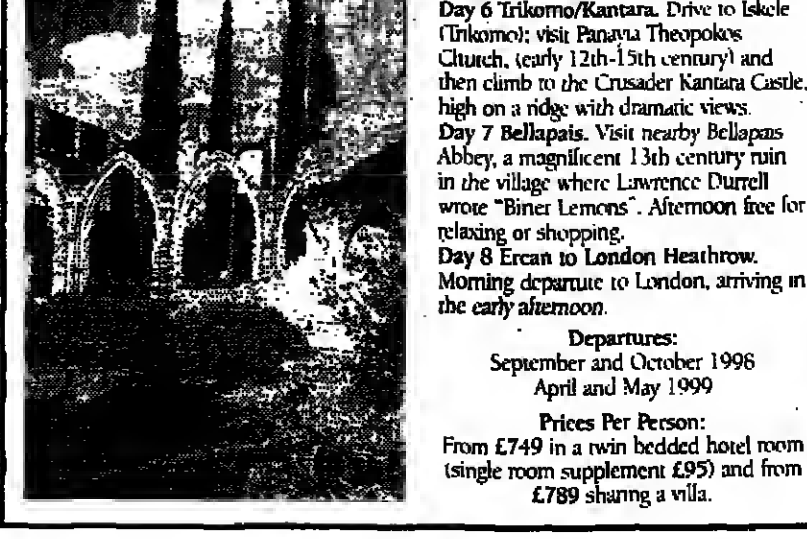
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For some the lack of development is a minus, whilst for others it will be the strongest reason for travelling there. In many ways the atmosphere is similar to that you would have experienced in Mediterranean resorts some 30 to 40 years ago before the advent of the package tour. If, like us, you are attracted by places which still have a natural charm, warm and friendly inhabitants, quiet beaches and ancient sites where you may be the only visitor, then Northern Cyprus might be the ideal place for you.

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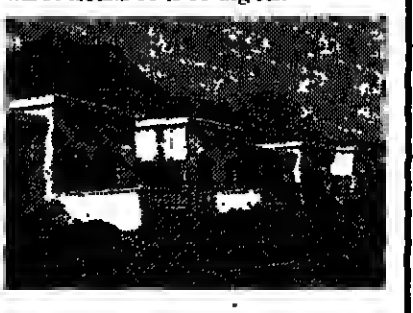
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In the hot summer months of June, July & August we offer 7 or 14 night stays at the Onar Village. These are essentially relax, read a book and potter round in a self drive car holidays.

During the winter months from November to March we offer 7 or 14 night winter breaks at attractive prices. Temperatures particularly in November and March can be surprisingly high, reaching into the high 50s and low 70s, whilst in the mid-winter the daytime high will be around 55 to 60 degrees.



### Winter in Kyrenia

Take advantage of the special winter air fares and low season hotel rates available from November through to March, based on a seven night stay on half board.

### Summer in Kyrenia

Too hot for some, but if you like the high temperatures of the summer in the Eastern Mediterranean the following will be of interest. The month of June will be the cooler of the three summer months. You have the choice of half board arrangements in the hotel or room only in a villa. Special car hire rates are available from £120 per week.

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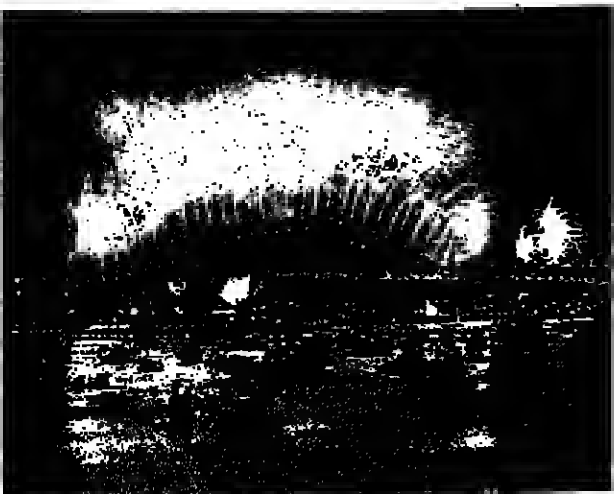
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A special YHA Rent a Hostel brochure (01727 845047) lists 78 smaller properties in England and Wales that can be booked for a weekend or longer, with prices ranging from £170-£570 for two nights' self-catering. This includes bed-linen, kitchen equipment, heating and lighting. At eight of the hostels an extra charge of £10.70 per person per night provides all meals as well.

MORE THAN three million litres of beer and several kilometres of sausages will be consumed between midday June 26 and midnight June 28 at Europe's biggest youth party on the Costa Vianna. The Austrian capital boasts 25 miles of beach where the river divides and the Danube Island Festival is being held. International pop and rock stars will perform on 20 stages in front of audiences of more than two million.

Ready for 2000  
WHILE the skies of Europe have been busy this week with the launch of British Airways' cut-price airline Go (08456 054321), the first indications have emerged of prices for millennium flights. Down Under, Bridge the World (0171-437 2221) has round-trip London to Sydney flights with

Malaysia Airlines departing December 12, 20 and 26, 1999, for £1,140 and London-Auckland (via Sydney) for £1,390. Flights must be paid for by December 1998.

Sydney is to hold the world's biggest firework display, while New Zealand's Gisborne is claiming to be the first city to see the sun rise on the 21st century.

The launch of £100 return flights to Rome with BA's Go on May 22 was followed by flights to Milan from May 23 at the same price. Copenhagen flights, also at £100, will start on June 5.

CITY specialist Kirker Holidays (0171-231 3333) has added New York and Boston to its short-break programme, which offers 248 hotels in 39 cities, mainly in Europe. "We've chosen hotels of character in the heart of the cities so holidaymakers can walk to museums, galleries and shops," says Christopher Kirker. These hotels include the Carlyle on New York's Madison Avenue where jazz from Bobby Short, Eartha Kitt or Dixie Carter usually accompanies dinner. The Pierre overlooking Central Park on Fifth Avenue, and Boston's grand dame, the Fairmont Copple Plaza. Three-night breaks cost from £684 at the Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan, rising to £1,099 at The Pierre. These prices include flights, private transfers and accommodation (no breakfast).

Longshot Golf Holidays (01730 268621) and Cadogan Holidays (01703 828313). Serious golfers will probably do best in Hammamet where there are three courses varying from moderate to difficult. Panorama offers a week's half-board in a four-star hotel from £215 to £459, with five pre-bookable rounds costing £135.

THAT workhorse of the skies during the Second World War, the DC-3 Dakota, which also ferried supplies during the Berlin airlift, is now flying holidaymakers round southern Africa, with dnb-class service throughout. Using vintage aircraft (Junkers JU52s and Douglas DC-4s also fly the route), the package is organised by Carrier Tours (01625 582006). The aircraft fly from

Baumanière and Le Moulin de Mougins near Cannes. Details from Relais & Châteaux (00 331 4572 9000).

Most Tunisian courses are situated in and around the popular resorts of Hammamet, Monastir, Sousse, Port El Kantaoui and the island of Djerba and are listed in the *Golf Tunisia* leaflet. Membership of the clubs is not required, green fees cost £22-£32, golf clubs cost £9 to hire, caddies £6 a round. Tour operators include Panorama Holidays (01273 206531).



Walkers admire a view of Grasmere. You can enjoy the Lake District this autumn and winter by hiring the whole of the YHA's Ennerdale Hostel with family and friends

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Johannesburg with overnight stops in Sun City, Windhoek, the capital of Namibia; the Skeleton Coast's Swakopmund; Hoedspruit, the South African game reserve; and Victoria Falls. The 12-day tour costs £2,185 which includes international and vintage flights, and B&B accommodation en route.

Crèche care

THOMSON Holidays (0990 502555) is targeting specific age groups. In addition to the free Thomson T Club for children aged three upwards, crèches are to be introduced next summer in selected hotels and apartments during May, June, September and October. Qualified staff will look after children aged from six months to three years for £10 per morning or afternoon. For empty-nesters no longer travelling with their offspring, Thomson Gold has 11 three and four-star hotels offering gala nights, three hours' entertainment each evening, plus activities ranging from beauty treatments to cookery demonstrations. A week's half-board at the Hotel Ses Estiagues in Ibiza's Santa Eulalia costs from £415-£519.

Travel articles in *The Times* since January are on our Internet site. See *Most Recent* links on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

FLYING OFF THE SHELF

THIS month's books prove that there is more to France than football, take you step-by-step along Amsterdam's canals, and offer advice on greener travel.

Hôtels & Restos de France 1998-99 (Rough Guide/Routard £12.99) Translated into English for the first time, Rough Guide and Routard's joint publication is indispensable for those looking for a place to hang their hat or indulge in a culinary feast in France. Annually updated by local critics, the guide offers detailed personal recommendations.

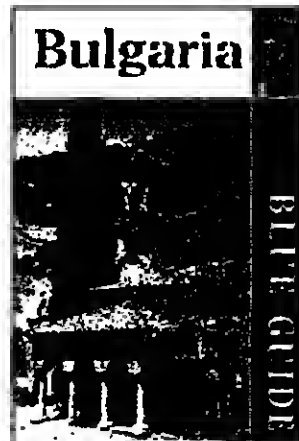
Lonely Planet's phrasebooks: Spanish, Filipino (Tagalog), Central Asia, French, German and Italian (£3.99) These pocket-size phrasebooks have a textbook approach — grammar, two-way dictionary and mini-crossword tests — combined with phrases for almost every day-to-day eventuality. The most entertaining sections in the French and Spanish books cover dating and romance. For example: "sigue", which is Spanish for "please don't stop".

Oman & the UAE (Insight Guides £16.99) This colourful guide proves there is more to the UAE than duty-free. Chapters on Islam, the oil industry and the people's passion for falconry, combined with practical tips, such as how to ask ladies at the women's souk in Ibra if they mind being photographed, should lead to stress-free travel. Reflecting the area's 75 per cent expatriate community, this book is aimed at business people, not independent travellers.

The Green Travel Guide by Greg Neale (Earthscan £12.99) This no-frills guide offers ethical advice on how to travel without degrading the world's ecologi-

cal and social environment, and reports on eco-friendly initiatives. It also includes a directory of "green" tour operators.

Amsterdam Explored by Derek Blythe (Pallas Guides £11.95) Ideally, you would take Derek Blythe to Amsterdam with you, but *Amsterdam Explored* is almost as good. Blythe takes you on nine guided walks, suggests coffee breaks and informs and entertains with lively anecdotes. It is illustrated with maps and paintings from the country's Golden Age, and there are appendices on such subjects as where to stay and Amsterdam for children. Also out this month is *Lonely Planet's Amsterdam* guide (£8.99), a feisty and forthright companion.



Detailed cultural history



Textbook-style phrasebooks

East and Southern Africa: The Backpacker's Manual (Bradt £13.95) A tightly written, no-nonsense guide by Phillip Briggs, who has already published individual books on most of the countries in the region. The information is presented in a punchy format with detailed maps covering most tourist areas. Structured in modules, with advice on excursions in compact boxes, there is also a section on safari game.

Bulgaria by James Pettifer (Blue Guide £13.99) Impressively detailed on the country's political and cultural history, accommodation and restaurants, there are also pragmatic tips such as how to recognise forged currency.

JOANNA HUNTER

Ask our consultants about holidays to New Zealand and they might tell you to take a running jump.

In fact, there's nothing an Austravel consultant would enjoy more. Whether it's paragliding over Queenstown or whale watching off Kaikoura, they relish the opportunity to tell you all about the activities you can enjoy in New Zealand. That's because they've actually been there and experienced it for themselves.

**Auckland**  
Voted one of the world's friendliest cities, Auckland, in the North Island, is colourful, cosmopolitan and simply stunning. Called the City of Sails, it's a vibrant blend of Maori, South Sea Island and European Cultures. Soak up the atmosphere (and a few glasses of the excellent local wine!) and then head out for the Bay of Islands, just a couple of hours north. Stretch out on the white sands and then take a cruise around to get to know the islands.

**Rotorua**  
The heartland of Maori culture, Rotorua has been a main attraction for many generations of visitors. Discover for yourself the healing properties of its thermal spas, witness the famous Pohutu Geyser in action and stop off in Whakarewarewa Reserve for some local arts and crafts.

**Wellington**  
Wellington boasts a spectacular harbour and the 'Te Papa' Museum of New Zealand — an entertainment extravaganza which takes you on an exciting interactive journey through the country. From here board the ferry to the South Island to explore some of the best wine regions and to see sperm whales off the coast of Kaikoura.

**Queenstown**  
Queenstown is an adventure playground. From Moon-Rite horse treks to paragliding and jet boating, it's all happening.

For the quiet life move south to the glacial fjordlands of Milford Sound, with its clean air and serene, natural beauty. If you're interested in holidays to New Zealand and would like to know more, talk to one of our travel consultants listed below. Or simply cut out the coupon and return to us today.

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Offers subject to availability. AFTA C1804, ATOL 4022. Airfares include pre-paid taxes. All prices based on per person, per night, twin share.

Everybody wants to be like Kate and Andy

YOU'VE probably seen the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and now you can see the real thing. The film's director, Mike Newell, has produced a documentary about the lives of the real-life couple, Kate Winslet and Andy Serkis. The film follows the couple from their first meeting in 1994 to their wedding in 1997. It's a candid and intimate look at a young couple's relationship.



by Cath Urquhart

TRIP  
The film follows the couple from their first meeting in 1994 to their wedding in 1997. It's a candid and intimate look at a young couple's relationship. The film is available on video and DVD.

ALWAYS  
Now only £19.99. The book is available in paperback and hardcover. It's a must-read for anyone interested in travel and photography.

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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

Everybody wants to be Kate and Leo

YOU MIGHT think that the film Titanic would have been bad news for the cruise industry. Not a bit of it. In fact, as I discovered when I boarded P&O's cruise liner, Oriana, last Friday for a weekend break, it is impossible to avoid references to the blockbuster.

I spied the book-of-the-film on sale in the departure lounge. You could hardly walk into a bar or lie by the pool without Celine Dion crooning the film's theme song over the loudspeakers. I half-expected to see the film itself on the in-cabin television set.

While on board I heard that some American cruise lines have a Titanic-related problem. Film fans are desperate to imitate the iconic scene in which the lead characters, played by Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio, stand in the prow with their arms spread-eagled. This is forbidden as it is extremely dangerous, but one company, Royal Caribbean, is considering building a special prow with platform and harnesses on its Eagle ships, due to come into service from next year.

Here love-struck guests will be able to do their Kate & Leo impersonations in safety — although the romance of the moment might be shattered by the munerings from the queue of other couples waiting in the wings.

The timeshare industry continues to inch its way towards respectability. From Monday, Thomas Cook will sell timeshare holidays through its network of travel agents. It joins respectable players, such as Airtrous, Marriott and the De Vere group, which have also gone into the business and are doing their best to improve its image.

But there is still a fly in the ointment. Spain, including the Canaries and Balearics (where

so many timeshares are sold to the British), has still not signed up to the EU Timeshare Directive, which Britain and most of the rest of Europe look on board in April 1997. This law gives customers more rights when buying a timeshare — including, crucially, a ten-day cooling-off period. Spain's failure to act means that its visitors face a summer of uncertainty, and if they succumb to the blandishments of the still prevalent timeshare touts, they will not have any legal protection.

I FEEL sorry for anyone in India who is suffering in the current heatwave, with temperatures in the high 40s centigrade. As seems to happen most years in Delhi, angry mobs have been attacking electricity substations to protest at the power cuts that always accompany the heatwave. I honestly do not know where they find the energy. Until I experienced this sort of temperature, I had no idea of the extraordinary effects it has on the body.

Two years ago I was staying in the town of Khajuraho, in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, during May, the honest time of the year. Between 9am and 6pm the temperature hovered around 50C. Stepping outside felt like being hit over the head with a sledgehammer. The smallest task — such as crossing the road — sapped all my energy.

I stayed in a small hotel where there was just an electric fan to keep me cool at night — when the temperature sank to a chilly 35C. At the end of the week I treated myself to a night at the luxurious, air-conditioned Jass Oberoi hotel. One of its features was a sauna, the temperature gauge of which showed it was 55C. Funny enough, it was hardly used.

Send your suggestion, in no more than 75 words, on a postcard to: Travellers' Tip, The Times Travel Desk, 1, Kensington Street, London E1 0AN, with your name and address and daytime telephone number. If yours is published, you will win the Lonely Planet guidebook and phrasebook of your choice.



by Cath Urquhart TRAVEL EDITOR

Kenya holiday prices tumble

Now is the time to go, say Oliver Bennett and Jeannette Hyde

Bargain hunters will find Kenya one of the best deals around this summer as tour operators offer ridiculously low prices to entice tourists back.

Freak weather conditions, social unrest, a tourist murder in February at the Aberdare Country Club, anti-malaria drug scares and hiked visa fees have all hit the headlines — and led to a drop in travel to Kenya over the past year.

But operators believe this summer is their opportunity to show travellers that the worst is over and that now is a good time to visit.

Hayes and Jarvis planning executive Stephen Hodgson said: "The weather is improving and there are huge savings to be made. Our accommodation prices in Mombasa have been heavily reduced."

Kenya was badly affected by El Niño. The rainy season — which normally runs from mid-April to late May — started last December and has only just ended. Many of Kenya's roads were badly damaged, making safari areas difficult to reach and animals hard to spot.

anxious — as are the tour operators — to get people back to Kenya. During the high season from July to October there will be even better prices."

Nigel Vere-Nicol, managing director of tour operator On Safari, said: "The government is trying to repair the roads and there have been some unbelievable special offers. Kenya is one of the few African destinations where you can combine a safari with a beach holiday."

"I have just come back from Miami Beach where there were two killings and a rape, but I saw nothing in the papers here. Yet when anything happens in Kenya it is everywhere. The press coverage from Nairobi is far more intense."

Toby Oliver, spokesman for Prestige Hotels, which runs safari and beach properties in Kenya, said: "The political unrest is over and the violence associated with the election before Christmas is finished. This is the time to go back to Kenya."

Dogged by reports of violence and political corruption, Kenya has seen a massive drop in tourists over the past few years. Last year about 700,000 visitors went to Kenya — more than 100,000 less than in 1991.



Happy times on a Mombasa beach last year. But tourists have been staying away from Kenya recently

Let's all ski down a sand dune

RIDING across the desert or skiing down sand dunes are featured in a Middle East holiday brochure aimed at Britons, writes Steve Keenan.

The United Arab Emirates and Oman are normally regarded as shopping stop-over destinations en route to the Far East. But desert holidays have grown in popularity, with Britons enjoying a mix of dunes and deckchairs, according to Hasan Scarr, sales manager of Dnata Travel (0171-244 8840).

FLYING VISITS

Table with flight routes and prices. Columns include destination, price, and airline. Destinations include London, Athens, Birmingham, Berlin, London, Los Angeles, London, Malaga, London, Milan, Edinburgh, Munich, London, Rome, London, Zurich, London, Tokyo, and Airline telephone numbers.

JOIN Pavarotti and friends

in the park on June 9. Accompanied by The Spice Girls, Phil Collins, Celine Dion, and Sir Paul McCartney, the performance in the Parco Novi Sad, Modena, in Italy, is in aid of War Child, a charity for young victims of war.

STAY FREE at The Manor Arms

(01460 72901), North Perrott, Somerset. Until the end of July, you can stay for a minimum of two nights on a half-board basis, and only pay the price of the gourmet three-course dinner — £25 per person per night.

ERNEST Hemingway

went to extremes to discourage visitors to his home in Key West, Florida, but now you can visit it without incurring his legendary wrath. Florida Vacations (01727 841568) is offering seven nights in the Old Town Retreat, an historic "coach home" in Key West, for £229 per person including car hire, based on four people sharing until the end of June.



Return flights from Gatwick or Heathrow, departing daily, transfers and airport taxes included.

WALK yourself fit with Waymark Holidays (01753 516477) walking trip in Madeira. Departing from Gatwick on June 13, ten days half-board, including three days in Funchal, starts at £650 per person. Tax, transfers and the services of a leader are included.

STUCK FOR something to do next Saturday? Spend a night in Rome with British Airways Holidays (0990 224224). Staying on a Saturday night only, one night's B&B at the Hotel Montreal in Rome starts at £199 per person including return flights from Gatwick, transfers and taxes. Valid until June 30.

DESTINATION Far East (0171-336 7788) is offering a nine-day tour of Vietnam. The Compact Vietnam tour in-

cludes visits to Saigon, the Perfume River and Hanoi. Including B&B, return flights, transfers and taxes, the tour starts at £1,089 per person. Departs daily from Heathrow or Manchester.

TROPICAL Places (01342 825123) has reduced many of its prices until the end of June. Fourteen nights' all inclusive at La Source in Grenada is reduced to £1,449 per person, including return flights every Wednesday from Gatwick. Fourteen nights' all inclusive at Jack Tar Village in St Kitts is now £949 and departs every Friday from Gatwick. Fourteen nights all inclusive at Rex Turtle Beach in Tobago is at the reduced price of £969 per person. Departs on Saturdays from Gatwick until June 13. All offers include transfers and taxes.

The sun never sets on Fred Olsen's (01473 292222) Black Watch cruise. Stopping off at Amsterdam, Spitsbergen and visiting Tromsø, cultural capital of the Arctic and home to the Ice Cathedral, the 15-day trip starts at £2,160 per person, including full-board and entertainment and departs from Dover on June 25.

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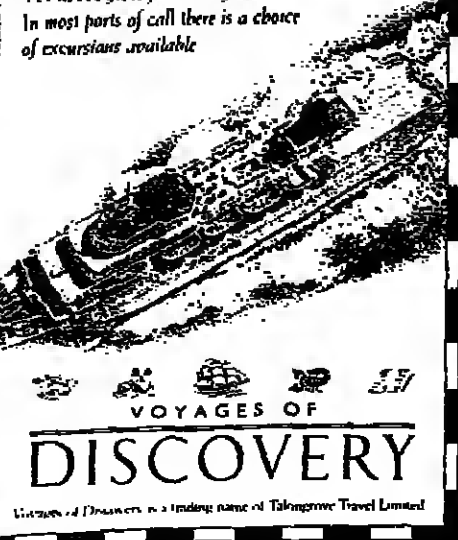
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Port Said, Egypt for Cairo & Pyramids
Transit Suez Canal
Safage, Egypt for Luxor, Karnak & Valley of the Kings
Aqaba, Jordan for Petra
Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt for St. Catherine's Monastery and return flight to UK

RED SEA EXPLORER

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Safage, Egypt for Luxor, Karnak & Valley of the Kings
At Sea
Suez, Egypt for Cairo & Pyramids
Transit Suez Canal
Ashdod, Israel for Jerusalem & Bethlehem
At Sea
Kasadasi, Turkey for Ephesus
Athens, Greece for City tour & Acropolis and return flight to UK



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Personal space: even on a crowded beach you can still find enough sand for all the members of the family to enjoy themselves



An umbrella provides welcome shade on the beach, particularly for young children

**FUN IN FRANCE**

France's rural network of back roads and byways, where you can cycle for hours and hardly see a car, is ideal for families who want to unwind away from the usual tourist haunts. Cycling for Sothies (0161-248 8252) grades its holidays for "Gentle Tourers", "Super Sothies" and "Adventurers", promising comforts after a day at the wheel in the form of small family-owned hotels with above average cuisine.

A "Gentle Tourer" ride that the firm recommends for all ages is a Beaujolais holiday pedalling through the vineyards and villages of La Daube Plain, the plateau of 1,000 lakes, where there is little traffic, lots of cafes and of birdlife to spot. The hotel is in the market town of Montmerle sur Saône with swimming from the riverbank beach. Prices for seven nights' half-board accommodation and cycle hire in August are £531 for adults, and £461 for under-12s. Travel is not included, but can be arranged.

If you prefer to paddle your own canoe, Headwater Holidays (01606 813367) still has availability on its Dordogne trips throughout July and August, with accommodation in riverside hotels with pools.

Return ferry crossings, seven nights' half-board, canoe hire and a lesson on the first day costs £457 per adult, £269 for children over two and up to 11.

For energetic families who want to try a different activity each day, Headwater's "Discovery and Adventure at Anney" in the Savoy Alps, with sports ranging from river rafting and riding to scuba diving, costs from £467-£498 for adults, and £278 for children over two and under 12, for full-board, activities and ferry fares.

Also in the Alps, family specialist Sun Spirit (01252 616789) can offer mountain activity holidays in Morzine and Chamonix from £348 per adult, £174 for children up to 18 and £58 for under-tuos, for the Chamonix crossing, a week's B&B and some meals. Crèches with

# We're all going on a summer holiday

From seaside to campsite to mountain, there are family summer holidays for late bookers, says Jill Crawshaw

British nannies cost an extra £63 a week. "Alpines" Clubs for four six-year olds with trails and picnics cost £63, while their siblings aged seven to 12 pay £98 a week for biking, walking and climbing.

VFB Family Activity Holidays (01242 240332) also runs an action-packed Alpine programme in resorts that in the winter are packed with skiers, including Samoens, Morzine, Les Deux-Alpes and La Clusaz. A half-board week in early August in Morzine costs £349 per adult, and £279 per child under 14, which also includes ferry fares.

**MAINE CHANCE**

Avoid the crowds at Walt Disney World's new Animal Kingdom in Florida, and head for the creeks and harbours of New England's spectacular coast. Become part of a small American community, enjoying clamcakes on the beach, supporting the local baseball team, buying blueberry pancakes and Coors beers at the deli and lobsters at £3 each in restaurants.

New England Country Homes (01798 869096) offers 300 family properties ranging from simple log cabins on stilts over the water in Maine to artists' studios in cosmopolitan Connecticut.

In rugged Maine there is still room in July and August in

Boothbay Harbour, the "boating capital" of the Atlantic, where you can take whale-watching trips and picnics on the outlying islets. A two-week holiday in a clapboard cottage, sleeping four to five, costs £2,100 for accommodation and car hire, with flights costing £480 per adult and £250 per child.

A two-centre holiday with a week in a silted cottage on the beach in Massachusetts's Mattapoisett and a second week overlooking Long Island Sound, near Connecticut's Mystic Seaport in early August, costs £2,827 for accommodation and car hire, flights extra.

**TURKISH TRIPS**

Travelbag Adventures (01420 541007) is organising family activity weeks based at Kas on the attractive Lycian coast. Daily adventures include a hike to the eternal flame at Olympos, a boat trip to the sunken city of Kekova and a Jeep safari into the interior and lunch in a traditional mountain village. There is also plenty of time allowed for the beach.

Travelbag says these trips are quite demanding and children will not be pampered.

A week from August 8 costs £525 per adult, £425 per child (five to 11), which covers flights, B&B family-

run hotel accommodation, with a baby-sitting service, excursions and most lunches.

**LET'S MAKE HAY**

Switzerland offers interesting alternatives to sun-and-sand family holidays. Though you may have to juggle with your dates, Intravel (01653 628811) offers apartments on traditional old farms in the Goms Valley where you can help with the haymaking, milking or climbing up to the cattle in the High Alps. Participation is optional and there are many alternatives: family walks in the hills, swimming in the village pool or lakes, plotting journeys on the intricate network of cogwheel railways, cable cars, post-bus and lake steamers.

Edith's farmhouse is a typical example: a three-minute walk through the meadows to the village of Sorenberg which faces south towards the Brienz Rothorn mountain. In high summer the family moves up to the high pastures where you can help out if you wish. The farmer is also a qualified alpenhorn instructor.

A two-week self-drive holiday in July is £435 per adult in a party of two; children under 14 go free and ferry fares are included. The price drops to £385 per adult in June and at the end of August.

**SPANISH GEMS**

Saved from over-development by its craginess, the northern Costa Brava has the most picturesque and family-friendly resorts on

Spain's Mediterranean coast. Not surprisingly, this coast is where Spanish families choose to holiday. Spanish Harbour Holidays (017-986 0777) has a sprinkling of apartments and villas, some with pools in such gems as rocky little Aiguablava, Sa Tuna, Llafranch, Calella and Tamarit, where you find local Catalan dancing on summer weekends.

The availability is fairly limited until mid-August, but there is "plenty in early July and after the A-level results come out around August 15", says the firm. Sample prices: a three-bedroom apartment 150 metres from the beach at Tamarit for two weeks costs £175 per person for each of six for rental only, £225 to include travel by ferry; £345 by air. Four staying in a two-bedroom apartment on the beach at Calella would pay £330 each for the accommodation only, £380 by ferry, £495 by air.

**WHAT CAN I DO NOW?**

The question that parents dread most on holiday, "what can I do now?", has been solved by a few tour operators who offer a range of watersports, dinghy sailing courses and other dry land activities with their Mediterranean packages.

The emphasis is on sailing and windsurfing on Sumsail's Club Holidays (01705 222222) with a variety of dinghies and sailing courses for beginners upwards from the age of seven. In addition, free "Penguin", "Sea Urchin" and "Cybers Clubs" entertain and provide meals for children of different

age groups, with a Mini-Club costing £130 a week for those from four months to two years.

During the summer holidays Sumsail has places left in the Kefalos Club on the Greek island of Kos, in the Terra Mare Club on Kefalonia and in the Yedi Tepe Club on Turkey's lively Bodrum peninsula. The price of a two-week holiday is £1,018 for adults, (£822 for children from two to 11) which include flights, half-board accommodation, four free lessons a week, childcare, some free babysitting and use of all equipment. The under-tuos pay £55.

Club Mark Warner (0171-761 7200) holidays are similarly run — in house party-style with sports galore (scuba diving has been added), free children's clubs and babysitting. As well as Greece and Turkey, there are clubs in Corsica, Sardinia and southern Italy. A two-week holiday at Capo Testa in northern Sardinia costs £902 per adult, £452 for under-12s; under-tuos pay £60 a week.

**NORTHERN EXPOSURE**

For families bored with beaches, Iceland's spectacular wilderness and wildlife offer challenging holidays with a range of activities from riding Viking ponies to glacier-walking and bathing in hot mineral lagoons. Arctic Experience (01737 218800) offers a family holiday in August at a country guesthouse near Selloss in the south of Iceland.

The Thingvellir National Park, where for centuries the Viking

Assembly met in the open air, is one of the outings, with the capital Reykjavik also on the itinerary, as is Mount Hekla, one of the country's most active volcanoes, and the famed Geysir, after which all geysers have been named.

The week starting August 22 costs £836 per adult with a 30 per cent reduction for children under 12 which covers flights, all meals, accommodation and excursions.

**UNDER CANVAS**

For the keen camper there is still room in tents on the French west coast and on inland sites, though prices tend to rocket from mid-July until mid-August. Look out for sites with children's activities, free bicycle hire and "adventure tents".

In August, Canvas Holidays (01383 643000) can offer a week's break at St Hilaire in the Vendée, four miles from wide sandy beaches backed by dunes. Site facilities include heated pools, tennis, mini-golf and volleyball, and Canvas's own Hoopi's Club entertains children between four and 11 with sports competitions, treasure hunts, rock painting, pyjama parties and minidiscos. The week costs £776 for a family of two adults and up to four children under 18, including ferry fares for car and passengers.

In the mountains, a two-week holiday with Eurocamp (01565 626262) at a family-friendly site in Austria's lively Zell am See costs £891 for up to six people including ferry fares.

All the holidays quoted were available at the time of going to press.

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You are required to take out travel insurance before travelling. 10 Travel and Motor Breakdown Insurance for up to 5 days in £20. 11 Days in £28. 12 Days in £38. 13 Days in £48. 14 Days in £58. 15 Days in £68. 16 Days in £78. 17 Days in £88. 18 Days in £98. 19 Days in £108. 20 Days in £118. 21 Days in £128. 22 Days in £138. 23 Days in £148. 24 Days in £158. 25 Days in £168. 26 Days in £178. 27 Days in £188. 28 Days in £198. 29 Days in £208. 30 Days in £218. 31 Days in £228. 32 Days in £238. 33 Days in £248. 34 Days in £258. 35 Days in £268. 36 Days in £278. 37 Days in £288. 38 Days in £298. 39 Days in £308. 40 Days in £318. 41 Days in £328. 42 Days in £338. 43 Days in £348. 44 Days in £358. 45 Days in £368. 46 Days in £378. 47 Days in £388. 48 Days in £398. 49 Days in £408. 50 Days in £418. 51 Days in £428. 52 Days in £438. 53 Days in £448. 54 Days in £458. 55 Days in £468. 56 Days in £478. 57 Days in £488. 58 Days in £498. 59 Days in £508. 60 Days in £518. 61 Days in £528. 62 Days in 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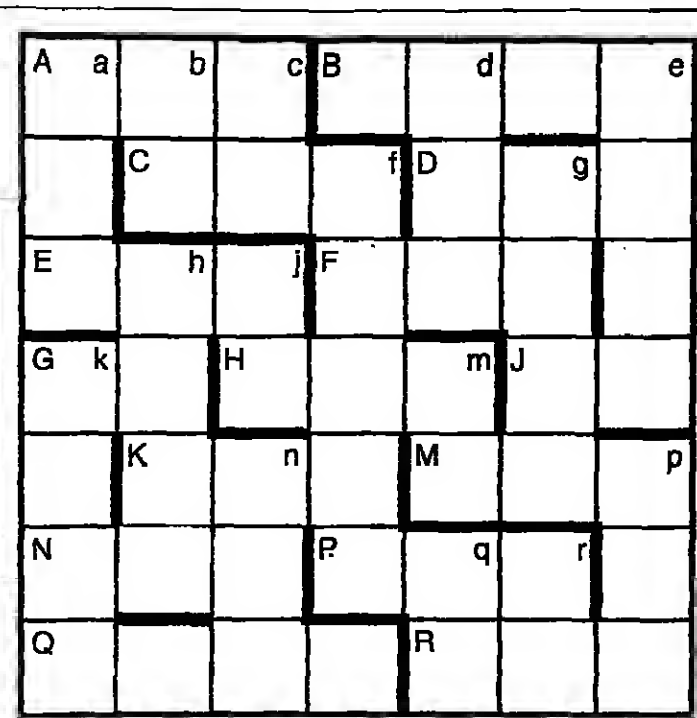
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Chess board and winning moves. WINNING MOVES by Raymond Keene. BLACK in play. This from the game between Delyade and Ivan...



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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3464, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 0HE, by Thursday, June 11.

Waterstone's logo and promotional text: 'The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10.'

EACH triple (for example, X,Y,Z) is an integer solution of the equation: X<sup>2</sup> - YZ<sup>2</sup> = 1

X' denotes the reverse of X whilst X\* denotes a prime number. Across lights are in capitals and no light starts with zero.

It will be helpful to note that J is a factor of n.

Triples

- (B, D/(D-a), e) (C, G, F+r) (C, r, M) ((D+1)/(d-1), G, k) (E\*, q-c, R)

- (FP, c\*, f) (H, j\*+G, G) (M+p-N, b\*m, A) (Q, (d+J)/r, e+n) (g, q\*, P) (h', b\*, p-K) (j\*, j\*, m)

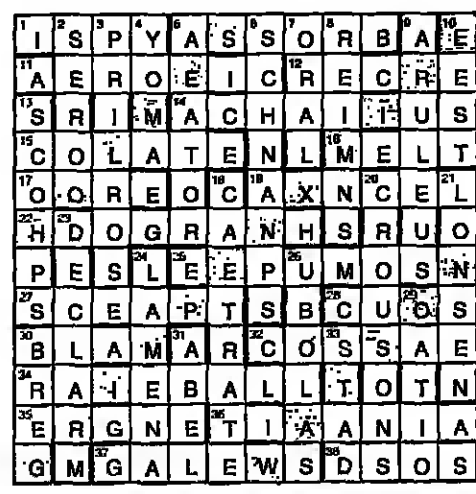
Listener mathematical puzzles

THE EDITORS of the Listener series are well aware that a certain number of people remain opposed to the appearance of these mathematical puzzles...

However, we respect, rightly or wrongly, their continuation in a series which has reached number 3464 with this puzzle; that number

represents about 70 years of puzzles throughout which mathematical ones have been a feature...

It is our intention to use mathematical puzzles about three to four times a year, and we would like to draw attention to the fact that for every one person for whom they are anathema there are two people for whom they are a delight.



Solution and Notes to No. 3461 A Case in Point by Gos

THE plot used was The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, "Baskerville" being a style of TYPE, measured in POINTS. Keywords were BASKERVILLE and BAKER ST.

The winner is J. Brown, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. The runners up are Barry Roe, of Leicester, Leicestershire; P.E. Ruff, of Eastleigh, Hampshire; P.E. Baker, of Wallingford, Oxfordshire; Brayn Sylvester, of Maidenhead in Berkshire; Mrs W. Beard, of Colchester, Essex.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

HOLDING UP is a common theme in No-Trump contracts. For example, if the opponents lead a suit in which you have AKx opposite xxx, ducking the first round may gain if the suit is split 5-2...

Here you play in 3NT after East has opened Two Spades, a weak bid showing a six-card spade suit and 6 to 10 points. Deals drawn from top-class bridge as this one is, often have unfamiliar bidding...

Dir North-South Game IMPs

playing against Meckstroth and Rodwell. He took the first club and played on diamonds, but could no longer make the contract when West turned up with ace and queen of hearts and a five-card club suit. This was the complete deal:

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North and South in Spades, Hearts, Diamonds, and Clubs.

The key is to duck the king of clubs at the first trick. If the lead is fourth highest, West is marked with Q1096 and probably the three. Thus declarer has three tricks in spades, three in diamonds and two in clubs.

If clubs are 4-2 he will need the heart finesse whether or not he takes the first trick - if the heart finesse is wrong he will lose 100 many tricks. If clubs are 5-1 declarer gains a vital tempo by ducking at trick one. That kills off West's clubs, unless West has all three key red suit cards (when there is no winning line).

Small bridge hand diagram with a 3NT contract and a lead of six clubs.

You play low from dummy on the opening lead and East contributes the king. What is your plan? When this hand came up in the 1996 Macellan International Pairs, the declarer was Bobby Wolff.

WORD ANSWERS

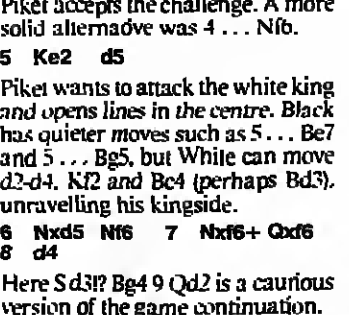
- SAMITE (b) A well patterned weave with complementary wefts in two or more series, usually of different colours, and a main warp and a binding warp. Through the action of the main warp ends, only one weft thread appears on the surface, while the other or others are kept in reserve. Tennyson, The Passing of Arthur: "Clothed in white samite, mystic, wonderful." CHAKRA (a) Unseen points on the meridian of the human body that correspond with but are not the same as the nerve nodes of the parasympathetic system. Esoteric schools recognise their dubious existence. Holistic medicine relies on the response of the chakra(m).

- BARZONA (b) A breed of cattle created in Arizona from Afrikander, Angus, Hereford and Santa Gertrudis. The name is an eponym of Barn and Arizona. GUINEGATE (c) In August 1513 the French cavalry attempted to relieve Therouanne, which was held by the English under Henry VIII and the Imperialists under Maximilian I. The French were put to flight without a blow being struck. TWO BRAINS Answers from page 40 Question 1 Life of Brian - cinematography; Cambrian - geology; Elgin Marbles - classical Greek statues; Manubrium - osteology Question 2 20. bl-h8 is five moves, b6 to g4 is four.

CHESS by Raymond Keene

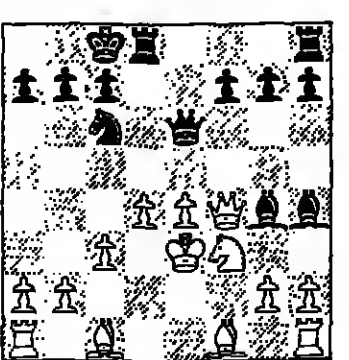
IT was Wilhelm Steinitz, the first world champion, who stated: "The king is a strong piece." In his games his king would wander around the middle of the board, apparently in great danger, but strengthening White's central pawns or luring the black pieces away from an important objective. This game by our former World Championship contender Nigel Short shows Steinitz's theories are by no means defunct.

Qx4 14 Qxg4+ picks up the other bishop next move. Since 1... Bxf3 12 gxf3 is positional capitulation, Piket decided on attack. 12... g5 13 Nbg5 Bxg5 14 Qxg5 15 15 h3! 15 e5? Nxe5 16 dxe5 Qb6+ 17 Kf4 Qf2 mate was best avoided. 15... Nxd4 15... Qxe4+ 16 Kf2 Bd1 17 Qh3 Qc2+ 18 Qf2 Qx4 19 Bx3 is hopeless for Black. 16 cxd4 Rxd4 17 hxg4 17 Kxd4 would be too outrageous, even though White may still be winning, eg 17... Rd8+ 18 Qxd8+ 1 or 17... Qxe4+ (17... Qb6+ 18 Kc3) 18 Kc3 Qe5+ (18... Qe6+ 19 Bc3) 19 Kc2 and the king evades the checks. 17... Rxe4+ 18 Kf2 fxe4 19 Rh6 Rf8+



White: Nigel Short. Black: Jeroen Piket. Madrid 1997. King's Gambit. 1 e4 e5 2 f4 exd4 3 Nf3 Be7 4 Nc3. A bold move, which dares Black to play 4... Bh4+.

20 Kgt?? Short had seen 20 Kg3 Qf7 21 Be3 Rg8 22 Qe5 b6 23 Qc5 the end of the excitement, but thought Black might check with his queen on the b8-h2 diagonal. He played the safer move. Piket was in some pressure with 20 moves to go and Short was trembling. The King's Gambit is not for the faint-hearted. 20... Rf1+ 21 Kd1 Rf1+ 22 Kf2 Qe2+?

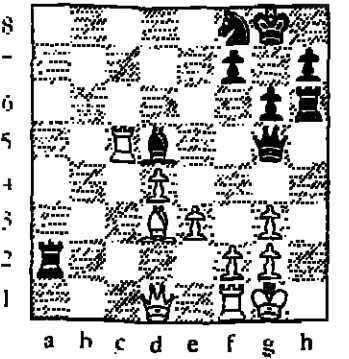


Black could have forced perpetual check with 22... Re2+ 23 Kg3 Rsg2-24 Kg2 Qe2+. This would have been an amazing finish: Black is two rooks and a bishop down, but forces a draw with his last piece. A reminder never to give up hope. 23 Kg3 Qd3+ 24 Kg4 Black resigns. Black resigned since the checks dry up, when White wins on points. Read The King's Gambit by Neil McDonald (Batsford, 1999).

This move introduces two threats. 13 Nxd4 and 13 Bc4, when 13...

WINNING MOVE

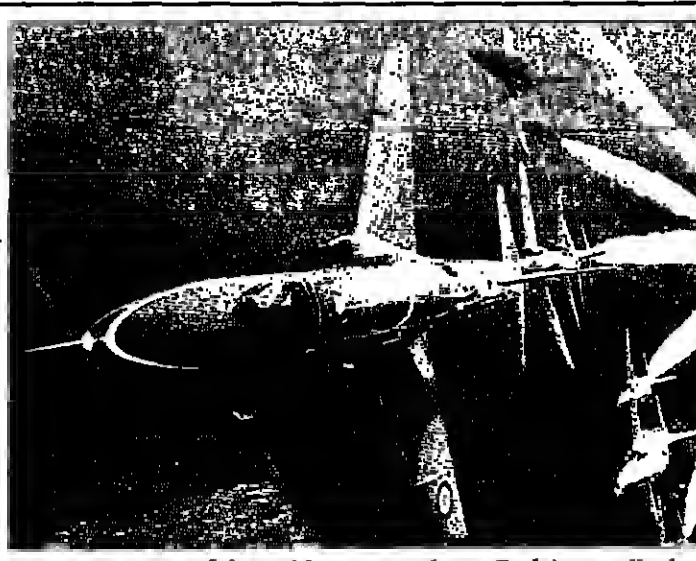
by Raymond Keene BLACK to play. This position is from the game Mahmud v Dzebuadze, Yerevan 1997.



Although Black is a piece ahead, White has two pawns and an awkward pin against the bishop on d5. How did Black avoid a long technical struggle with a quick tactical kill? The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers, on a postcard please, addressed to Winning Move competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The answer will be published next Saturday. Solution to last week's competition: 1 Bg5. The winner is Stuart Leslie, of Arbroath, Angus.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES by Tim Wapshott

EVERYONE who is anyone in the English-speaking video games world is knocking around Atlanta, Georgia, right now. The Western world's biggest games trade show is called E3 and to the industry it is as important as the Cannes Film Festival is to the movie business. The three-day event, which opened in Atlanta on Thursday, is primarily a showcase of new titles. Many are still in development although some finished products will be released in time for the Christmas market both in North America and throughout Europe. Although London does play host to ECTS every year, the nearest important trade show for European games developers, it remains less than a third of the size of E3. It is not open to the public but is packed with thousands of developers, retailers and journalists. The show is held at the World Congress Centre, a venue so large that the Red Arrows could do an aerobics display in the rafters and it would go unnoticed. It is also louder than several jet engines at close quarters, with thudding soundtracks trying to grab attention from the 400-odd stands. Last year's hit give-away was ear-plugs. The collective roar from the



Georgia's games fair could accommodate a Red Arrow display

stands starts around 9am and the cacophony lasts until close of business at 6pm. Then an eerie silence descends over the hall as the exhibitors and visitors set off for serious partying. Drinks receptions and parties running into the early hours are the usual fare. Visitors from the UK representing Cool Britannia have

Atlanta's culture before departing. If they are too exhausted they can always catch-up once they get home via the Internet. The High Museum of Art in Peachtree Street was designed by the American architect Richard Meier and opened in 1983. Today it has its own Web site (http://www.high.org/) where you can find a site overview, call up the events calendar and view a selection of images of contemporary art. In 1986, the Carter Presidential Center was opened. This is a library-museum dedicated to Carter's presidency and at the official Web site (http://redbud.lib.texas.edu/carter/homepage/homepage.htm) you can check out selected still photographs and oral history transcripts as well as download hand-outs, such as bibliographies of materials covering his campaigns in 1976 and 1980. Atlanta is best-known as the birth, work and final resting place of the great civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. The Martin Luther King Jr National Historic Site takes in his birthplace, the Ebenezer Baptist Church where he preached and the King Center where his tomb is located. Visitor information and further MLK

links can also be found at the Web sites of the Historic Site (http://www.nps.gov/malu/) and the King Center (http://www.thehighmuseum.com/). Should you want to see what Atlanta looked like as much as five minutes ago in real time, in theory at least, head to the WSB-TV Atlanta site (http://www.accessatlanta.com/wsbw/tower/full.htm). This claims to give you the choice of three "almost live" views of the city. The first is a wide-angle view from the WSB-TV transmitter at the Carter Presidential Center, the second camera is located at WSB-TV's studios Midtown and the third lets you peak at ten lanes of genuine traffic. The images are said to be updated every five minutes - perhaps the system was down when I looked as nothing changed at all. Finally, for a lighter look at road life in Atlanta head to the Atlanta Roadways Digest (http://208.233.94.78/tard/). Here you will find a collection of colour photographs taken in and around the city. For example, there is the unforgettable road-sign "Speed Limit 141/2 MPH" and a picture of The Hubcap Store which sells only new and used hub-caps.

NEW SOFTWARE

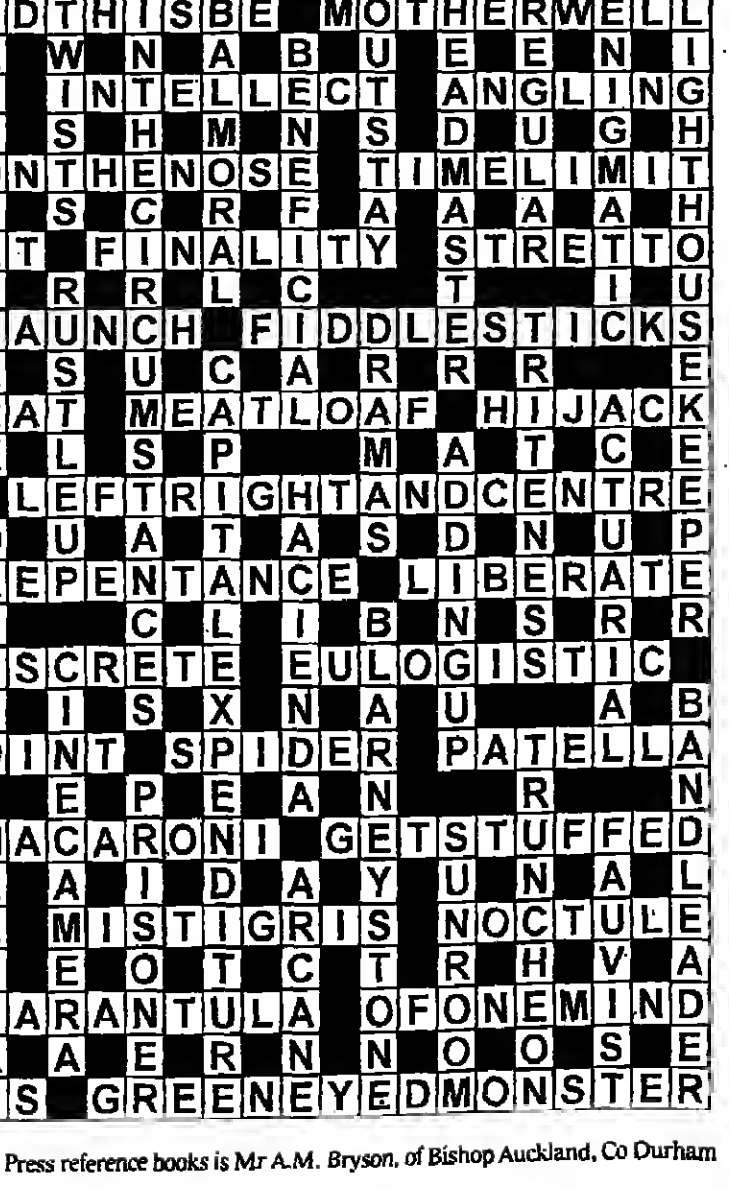
IT TAKES a while to get going in Forsaken. Acclaim's latest sci-fi blockbuster for the PlayStation and PC. But once you have mastered the controls you set off on what, in the main, is an agreeable white-knuckle action caper. Set on fusion-ripped Earth in 2113, you must stop human life from being extinguished by battling ruthless mechanoid adversaries. As a bounty hunter with a charitable streak, you must speed across 15 levels wiping out practically everything you encounter which moves. Each of the levels is a fully explorable 3-D domain worthy of close scrutiny, should you outrun the enemy long enough. As you progress, collecting gold bars and power-ups along the way, so too does the might of the weapon arsenal at your disposal. The graphics, moody and detailed, crackle with explosion effects which also sound extremely good, although not everything in this title does. Unfortunately, the voice characterisation seems to have been carried out on the cheap, using a female voice which would not sound too out of place on EastEnders. This is a very decent one-player game with extremely generous multi-player possibilities in the Windows 95 PC version. There are more than a dozen players accommodated in stellar deathmatch challenges. Verdict: 8 out of 10. Save the planet 115 years hence. £39.99. Broderbund's Family Pack is a compilation of four titles but seems a little too pricey for what you get. The best of the quartet is Mjst,



Forsaken: 8 out of 10

the good-looking adventure game which begins with the discovery of a book describing a mysterious island world. As you reach the end of the book this is when the fun begins, the screen dissolves and you are on that island. This really is a golden game although it can be a bit slow in parts. Print Shop Deluxe is a fine print package which will allow you to make and print hundreds of different projects from greetings cards to small models. If you do not already have a good print factory, this could certainly fit the bill. If you do, however, you hardly need two. Also included as a bonus title to use with Print Shop Deluxe is ClickArt, with 10,000 clip-art images for importing into your own projects. The other titles are both for young children. Darby the Dragon and Just Grandma and Me are multimedia books with text passages as well as environments to be explored for hotspots. They are colourful, gentle titles but neither offers anything especially out of the ordinary. Verdict: 6 out of 10. Four titles in one from Broderbund. £49.99.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 166



The winner of five Oxford University Press reference books is Mr A.M. Bryson, of Bishop Auckland, Co Durham



MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q My husband has several godchildren who have reached their teens and chosen not to be confirmed into the Anglican Church. One parent recently remarked on this, seeming to indicate he felt my husband's job was done. Should he allow this to lapse or does he have a job for life as a godparent? — Joanne Cox, East Chinnock, Yeovil, Somerset.

A The correct finger is the third finger of the left hand. Although most usually used by married people, this digit has since ancient times — when it was thought to have contained a vein that led directly to the heart — been the finger that symbolised commitment.

Q I am getting married in September and wish for the service to be videotaped. However, at the second meeting with our vicar, it seemed that he does not allow services to be taped. I found this out quite by accident as he did not volunteer the information at our first interview. I am therefore very upset as I had already booked the video man and paid a deposit. Is there anything that can be done about this, for example, moving the service to a different church? I think that vicars should have a duty to tell their prospective wedding couples exactly what they will and won't allow. — Nome and address withheld.



Q Occasionally when eating one finds a piece of gristle or some other unchewable item in one's mouth. What is the correct procedure to adopt: a) swallow it b) become a vegetarian c) take out your handkerchief, giving the impression you are going to clear your nose but slyly eject the unwelcome object into your handkerchief or d) most ingeniously draw the attention to your admiration of a painting or other features of the room. Then, while everyone turns to behold this object, swiftly remove it from your mouth. Is there a "correct" procedure to adopt in these circumstances? — David Butterfield, Lilleshall, Newport Shropshire.

A Option one is unpleasant, potentially dangerous and quite beyond the call of good manners. Alternatives b, c and d are unnecessarily convoluted and overdramatic but have much comic potential. Opt instead for tried and tested good form, which, like many of the best examples of etiquette, is simple and sensible. Bring the cupped palm of your left hand to your mouth, discreetly and silently "cough" the offending article into it and deposit it on the side of your plate. No one should be any the wiser.

A Churches are holy spots, not places of public entertainment to be treated as photogenic backdrops. Your vicar is not alone in his sensitivity to the Hollywood approach to the wedding ceremony and is under no statutory obligation to allow filming in his church. It is an imperative courtesy for couples to ask and not to assume that videos are acceptable to clergymen. I'm afraid you rather missed the moment at your first meeting, and to change churches now could be problematic and may appear ungracious. Why not compromise and ask him to allow the proceedings to be sound-recorded and later used in a video (or CD-Rom) made up from other images of the day.

Q I often, as you suggest, sign letters with my full name rather than my initials. As a result, strangers write back addressing me by my forename. I do not consider that one letter puts correspondents on first name terms. Am I wrong, or just old-fashioned to find this irritating? — M. Paxton, Chellaston, Derby.

Q I would like your advice on the subject of rings. My partner and I, both divorced, are considering setting up home together and she has expressed a wish that we should each wear a ring to express our joint commitment. I am demurring on the basis that I am unsure which

John Morgan is associate editor of GQ



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

- SAMITE a. Explosive b. Cloth c. Meat extract CHAKRA a. Body points b. A Chinese board game c. Laivian currency BARZONA a. A rum cocktail b. A cattle breed c. A region of Georgia GUINEGATE a. A Classic horse race b. A White House scandal c. Military action

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

THE SECOND Mind Sports Olympiad, which includes chess, bridge, crosswords, creativity, memory, speed reading and IQ, amongst its disciplines, is scheduled for the Royal Festival Hall from August 24-30. For further information access the website at www.mindsports.co.uk

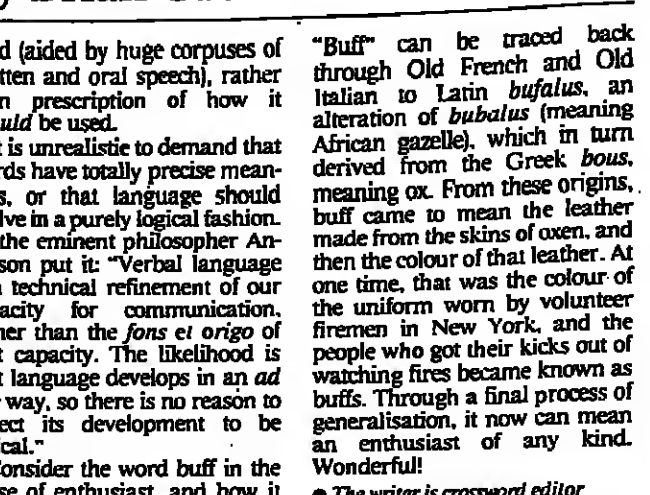
CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

Writing last week's column stimulated some reflection on the nature of language. I chose to disagree with solvers who consider it downright wrong to use K to mean 1,000, or to spell Aubrey's discovery ALBERTIA. Let it be thought that I believe that anything goes. I draw the line at using infer for imply or disinterested for uninterested, balk at a dice and wince at the criteria is.

PICTURE LINE

READERS are invited to suggest what was said when the Prime Minister's teddy bear, Lynton, left Downing Street for the Teddy Bear Museum.



The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, June 3. Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by M. Thomas, of Central London.

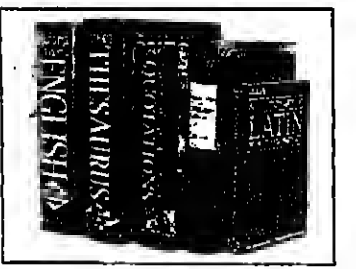
QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"It was a wonderful protest. I think we got the message across." — War veteran on FuW demonstration during Emperor Akhito's visit to Buckingham Palace

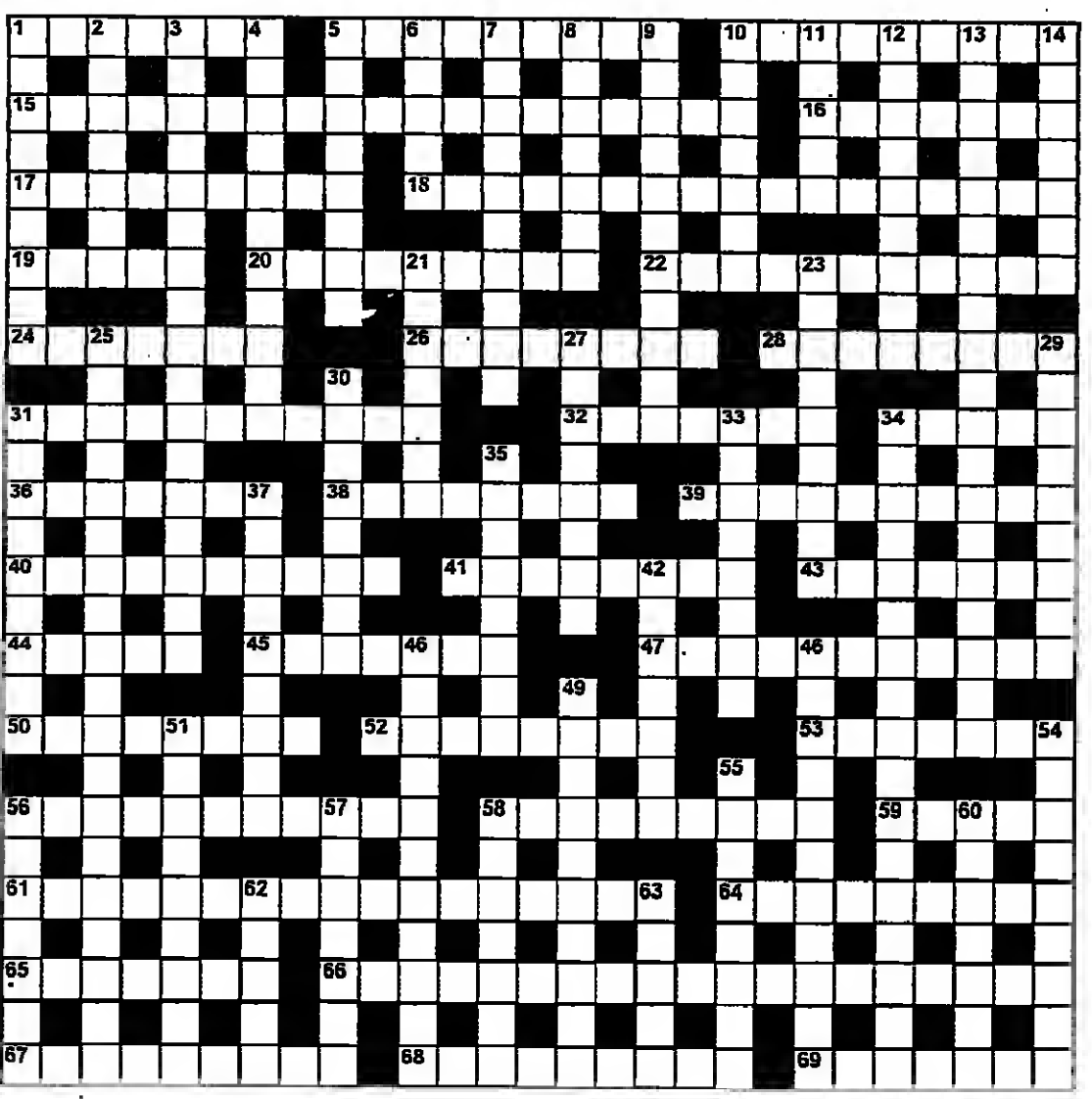
"That's a bit rich, them suing us for firing at them." — MoD responds to reports that the United Kingdom is to be sued by Saddam Hussein

"He really wants to support a British team." — Royal family insider on Prince Harry going to the World Cup in France

JUMBO CROSSWORD 169

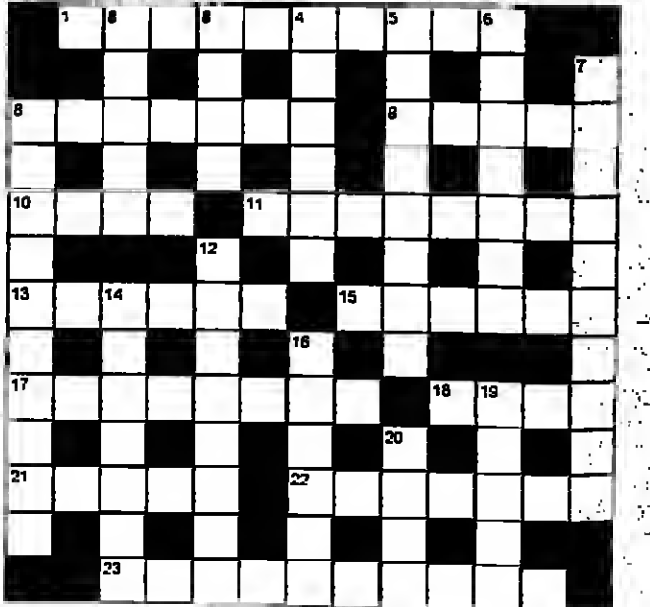


The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100. Included are The Oxford English Reference Dictionary and The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 169, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, June 11. The name of the winner will be published on June 13



- ACROSS 1 Limit money-raising powers of despicable person, then step back (4-3) 5 Bit of a letter from someone returning from Everest (9) 10 Unrealistic folk wanting big time and lots of money (9) 15 Frank's version of aliens encountered after dusk (9,2,3,5) 16 Oliver has hesitation becoming a crook (7) 17 The one who had a rocket, we hear, was a writer (9) 18 Residential men off cootried to attain independence (4-13) 19 There's nothing in certain beers to make them lazier (8) 20 Man's gold held in custody, mostly accounted for in special book (9) 22 Earlier at home, having returned alone painfully (11) 24 Holy man in decline — a man of spirit (7) 26 Indicate nasty radioactive element (8) 28 Most rock-bestrewn street — one street I'll get stuck in (8) 31 Once aboard, I arranged facility for transmitting signal (5,6) 32 Opal in a second ring lass keeps hidden (7) 34 Make love in club (5) 36 Vermin about to tuck into fish and apple (7) 38 Unfavoured jobs in distant parts of business (8) 39 Weather prediction led 500 to leave front of ship (10) 40 Irish boy embraced by mother perhaps in assembly (10) 41 Company ever at sea keeping dry in warship (8) 43 Junk with rips — article to get abandoned in rags (7) 44 Undercover agent offered scheme to meet head of terrorists (5) 45 Wind in Morocco rising from the east (7) 47 One of a couple that's rolled up for work? (11) 50 One church leader in type of vestment that's not immediately striking (8) 52 Silly nude raving is too immature (5,3) 53 A daughter chose to be attached to adults other than parents (7) 56 Against abortion, reckon to reproduce freely (11) 58 Republic seen as a place originally involved in wickedness and bloodshed (9) 59 Community spirit encountered in Somerset hostility (5) 61 Roll on austerity? Otherwise bask in smug self-satisfaction (4,2,7) 64 Outlandishly mad satire put into play (9) 65 Fellow meeting with electorate's approval (7) 66 Deviously concealed beneath a pile in the living room? (5,3,6) 67 Philosopher unhinged by sad secret (9) 68 Such an official cannot be a person of no account (9)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



- ACROSS 1 Not ready (10) 8 Thin rain (7) 9 Unchallengeable belief (5) 10 Card: bend (4) 11 Promptness (to act) (8) 13 Dome on roof (4) 15 Get down: burning (6) 17 Outfit: troupe (of musicians) (8) 18 Throwing line (darts) (4) 21 Untainted (5) 22 Story: explanation (7) 23 Penniless (5-5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1418 ACROSS: 1 Moni 4 Gallium 8 Proponent 9 Pad 10 Dot 11 Synthetic 12 Parka 13 Expel 16 Charabanc 18 Rot 20 Pad 21 Irrigate 22 Content 23 Dread DOWN: 1 Moped 2 Trotter 3 Fools' paradise 4 Greene 5 Latchkey child 6 Input 7 Medical 12 Pacific 14 Parake 15 Wasted 17 Aidan 19 Tweed

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